

Is John Birt
the devil?



A NEW 12-PAGE MIDWEEK SECTION STARTS TOMORROW

summer of sport

Analysis page 13

THE INDEPENDENT

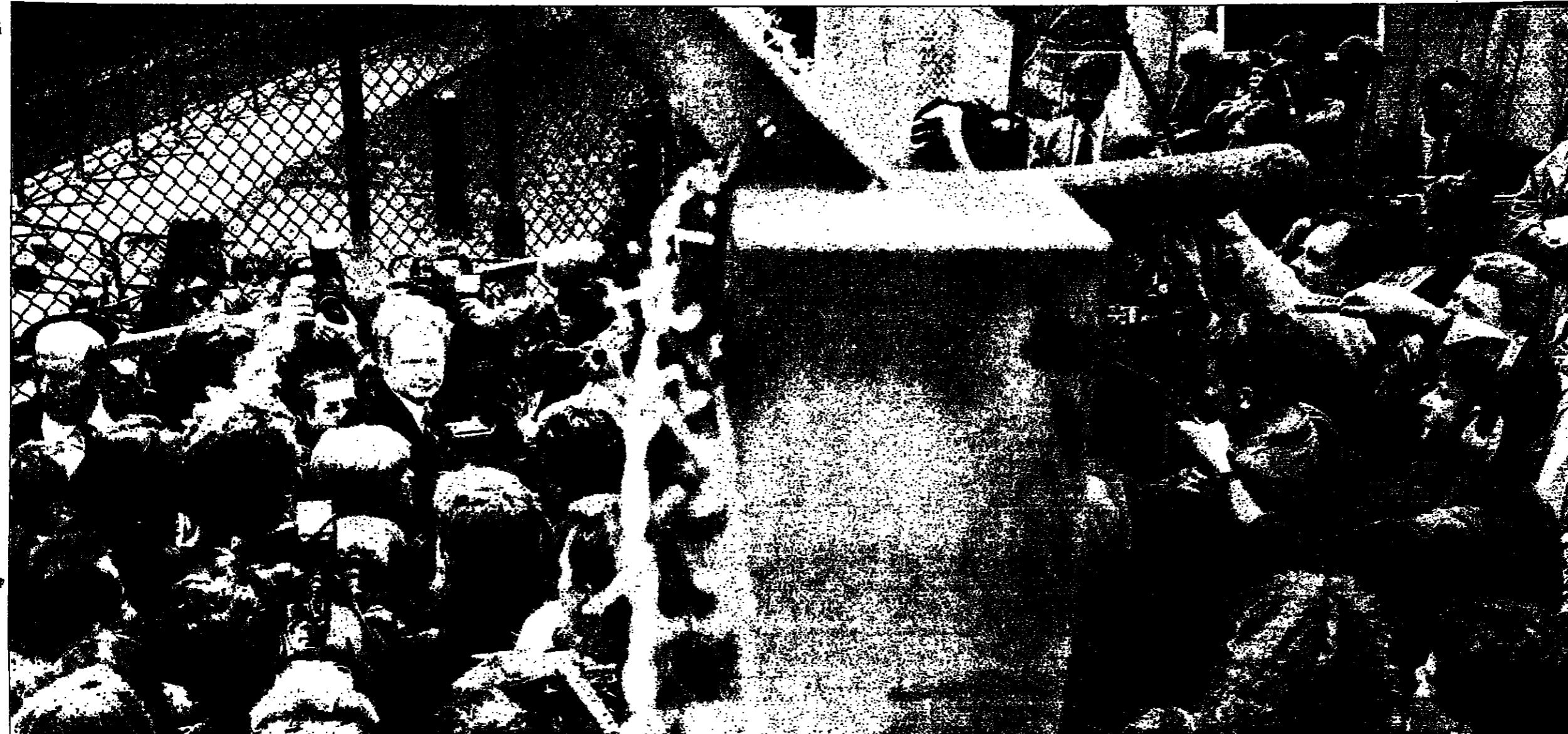
3.010

TUESDAY 11 JUNE 1996

WEATHER Dull with scattered showers 40p (12.45p)

David McKittrick sees the republican and loyalist spin-doctors hijack a moment in history

The men behind the wire



Across the great divide: Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness on the wrong side of the wire fence surrounding Stormont Castle after they were refused entry to yesterday's talks

Photograph: Brian Harris

Up close, it didn't feel like the stuff of history. It seemed like confusion, a disorganized mêlée in which, not for the first time, the republican and loyalist publicity machines bested the Government's spin-doctors.

John Major did his best, on the first day of potentially momentous talks in Belfast, to strike a note of realistic statesmanship: he had no illusions, he said, that the talks process would not be long, difficult and demanding.

But the propaganda battle-honours of the day went to Gerry Adams and Ian Paisley, who grabbed the headlines with their finely-calculated grandstanding. Mr Adams was pictured worldwide as the potential peacemaker buried from the conference chamber; Mr Paisley, who cares little for the wider world and concentrates on his domestic market, was able to project himself locally as the Union's fiercest defender.

Inside Castle Buildings in suburban east Belfast, the parties and the British and Irish governments finally convened for what might or might not turn out to be all-important talks. The presence of Mr Major and

the Taoiseach, John Bruton, was meant to send the message that this was the real thing.

But, as so often before, Mr Paisley, veteran of a thousand demos, protests and headline-grabbing manoeuvres, took the proceedings by the scruff of the neck. George Mitchell, the former US Senator asked by the

opening speech, handed over the proceedings not to Senator Mitchell but to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Doing so averted a potential Paisley walkout, but it also introduced a new element of uncertainty as to Senator Mitchell's role in the whole

broadcast live on BBC. But half an hour before they went on air, somebody in the Government pulled the plug and the live coverage was aborted. The Government was worried, the rumour went, about the possibility of Paisleyite heckling.

The cameras focused instead on Gerry Adams who,

here the cameras, which came from Japan, Norway and many other countries, dwelt on him for long and lovingly.

It went on for so long that one government press officer completely lost his cool. Abandoning the subtler points of news management, he simply grabbed one television camera

for the conference centre itself, surrounded by a crowd of perhaps 300 media people. Mr Adams specifying all the time. While the Prime Minister was opening the talks, the cameras instead feasted on the strong, simple image of the republicans being denied a place at the table.

It was at the third and final fence that the Sinn Fein crew became, in the words of the old republican tune, the men behind the wire. The rousing drinking-song is particularly apposite for Mr Adams himself, for he was once interned and then convicted of attempting to escape from lawful custody.

On this occasion, however, he was trying to get in rather than trying to get out. A government official appeared on the other side of the chain-link fence, and several exchanges followed.

When it was finally established that, as everyone had expected, the gate would not be opened, the Sinn Fein delegation peeled away to give an impromptu press conference, followed by dozens of interviews.

Martin McGuinness remarked that it was the biggest media scrum he had ever seen.

"I can't believe how stupid they are," one Sinn Fein member said in wonderment of the Government. "Do you know," said another, "that the Northern Ireland Office has over 40 press officers? Think of the damage we could do with that."

Gerry Adams and Ian Paisley presumably went home last

night, put their feet up and reflected on a good day's tactical work. The Government people, licking their wounds, presumably reflected that Rome wasn't built in a day, that the worst of the pyrotechnics might be passed and that, hopefully, tomorrow is another day.

Major's message, page 2


"We cannot afford to fail ... The hopes and expectations of very many people rest on the goodwill and negotiating skills and courage where necessary of the people involved in these particular talks"

John Major

"The talks offer the first chance for over 70 years for all involved, including those who have traditionally relied on physical force, to get round the same table to map out a future of peace, of justice, of hope"

John Bruton

two governments to chair much of the talks was, Mr Paisley declared, "fully in the republican camp. If he's in, I'm out".

A Mitchell-Paisley meeting was hastily arranged, but the Democratic Unionist leader emerged from it with his earlier opinion intact. Thus it was that Mr Major, having made his

process. Then, with Sir Patrick in the chair, Mr Paisley and others tried to unpick the agenda thrashed out last week by London and Dublin. Mr Major's forecast that it could be long, difficult and demanding already rings true.

The Major and Bruton speeches were meant to be

as promised, led a large Sinn Fein team up to Stormont to demand entry to the talks. The largest media posse ever seen in Belfast recorded Mr Adams encountering gates secured with a padlock. They then filmed him circumventing this obstacle and making his way up to another set of gates.

But the Sinn Fein retinue

wrenched it off the amazed cameraman's shoulder. "Get off," said the shocked cameraman. But when he refused, the press officer tried to pull the wires off the back of the camera.

But the Sinn Fein retinue

QUICKLY

History of fraud
A huge art fraud, which is being investigated by Scotland Yard and which centres on the archives of the Tate Gallery, had been going for at least six years. The *Independent* has learned.

Page 2

Deadly ceasefire
Hizbullah did not break the truce when it killed five Israeli troops; the Israelis did break it when they killed a Lebanese soldier: the truth is that there is no ceasefire. Robert Fisk, page 8

Unhealthy habits
Being afraid of needles, the need to appear macho and failing to demand good health care means that six out of 10 British men are either not registered with a GP or have never visited their GP or don't know their doctor's name. Page 3

£75m gift to nation
A British-born millionaire is to hand over a £75m collection of gold and silver as a gift to the British nation. Page 3

Europeans savage Britain

SARAH HELM
Brussels

"A huge letting off steam," was how one official described it. "A roasting," said another. "I have never seen anything like it. They were savaged," said a third, who had watched the European counter-attack on British ministers at Luxembourg yesterday.

It was a day of remarkable and unusually strong language.

"Blackmail," declared other EU ministers, wagging fingers at Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. "Paralysis of the union," said others. "Incomprehensible ... Unacceptable."

The temperature rose, and Mr Rifkind sat stony-faced and silent as they suggested that Britain was behaving illegally and that the "break-up" of the Union itself was nigh.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, warned Britain at the weekend

that the moment of truth in the beef war was coming. Yesterday it seemed that the moment had arrived.

The day's proceedings had begun quickly enough. Europe's foreign ministers took their seats in the Luxembourg council room ready for what has become a familiar ritual: the reading of the British "reserve", a prelude to the announcement of further vetoes.

"I have to announce that the British government, for reasons well known to you all, is not in a position to approve points 11-25 on the agenda," began Stephen Wall, the UK's representative to the European Union. To date a total of 56 European policy decisions had been blocked. Now 16 more decisions were to be shelved, this time affecting EU relations with the rest of the world.

It was the burly Dutch foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, who led the way. "The British say

they are suffering," he exclaimed. "But we are all suffering."

There followed a ferocious and unprecedented attack by the 14 ministers.

Werner Hoyer, the German minister, said he feared for the future of European development. The great European projects, spearheaded by Germany - monetary union, enlargement - were threatened, he warned. "The British policy is a severe blow to European integration."

How could Britain justify a decision to block European Union aid to Russia, just ahead of the Russian elections?

What was the purpose of halting dialogue with Syria? And what of the decision to block an EU statement criticising human rights in East Timor? This was "absurd", declared Portugal and Austria.

They scorned Mr Rifkind's "concessions". Britain had decided not to block a new association agreement with Slovakia and had backed away from blocking money for the election in Bosnia. But what right did Britain have to set the EU's agenda? "You cannot pick and choose," said Mr Van Mierlo.

For everyone in Luxembourg yesterday it was clear that the stakes in the beef war had now become intolerably high. Mr Rifkind, clearly shaken by the vitriol, tried to counter the attacks with some signs of conciliation. "The UK takes no pleasure in this," he insisted.

"We share your strong desire to conclude this."

Yet as the dust settled last night there was no sign of a ceasefire. Mr Rifkind made clear that the blocking would continue until a framework for lifting the ban was in place. And the others made clear that that would not happen until Britain had decided, as Mr Santer put it, "to play fair".

EU in crisis, pages 6 and 7

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS	15-19
COMMENT	11-13
CROSSWORD	24
LAW REPORT	14
LEADER	11
LETTERS	11
OBITUARIES	14
SHARES	18
SPORT	20-24

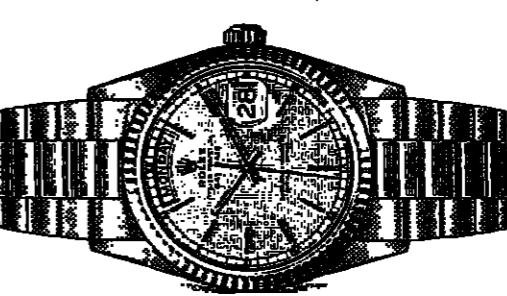
Section 2

ARTS	9
CHESS	23
CROSSWORD	26
FASHION	14-15
HEALTH	6-8
LISTINGS	24-25
LIVING	4-5
MEDIA	16-19
RADIO	27
TELEVISION	28
WEATHER	25

24

9 77051 946429

WHERE
TO ACQUIRE
A TASTE
FOR OYSTERS



ROLEX
of Geneva

The seamless Oyster shell of a Rolex chronometer is hewn from a single block of stainless steel, 18ct. gold or platinum. Within it lies a self-winding movement that has taken over a year to create. With prices starting at £1,155* the Oyster you always promised yourself is available from the Harrods Watch Department on the Ground Floor.

Not, we might add, from the Food Hall.

Harrods

Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1231.
*Watch shown available in 18ct. yellow gold priced £9,990,
white gold £10,385 and platinum £16,995

news

Trade in fakes: Scotland Yard investigation into bogus work has operated for past six years

Fraudsters 'rewrote' art records

JOJO MOYES

A huge art fraud under investigation by Scotland Yard, which centres on the archives of the Tate Gallery, has been under way for at least six years, the *Independent* learned last night.

The three people at the centre of the inquiry, who cannot be named for legal reasons, allegedly tried to tamper with records at the British Council in order to sell a forged paint-

ing by the British artist Ben Nicholson.

Prompt action by a British Council archivist managed to alert the buyer and prevent the sale of the work, which was wrongly claimed to have been exhibited in Japan.

Several people have been arrested and released on police bail, pending further inquiries, as part of the international investigation. The fraud encompasses modern masters such as

Nicholson and the Swiss sculptor and artist Alberto Giacometti.

Scotland Yard's Arts and Antiques Focus Unit is investigating evidence of the widespread sale of forged paintings, authenticated by allegedly altered records.

The British Council had been approached in writing in February 1990 by a man, using a pseudonym "John", who asked to see records of an exhibition

of Nicholson work that had travelled abroad in 1954. His letter allegedly implied an association with the Tate Gallery, although it is understood that the Tate is in no way implicated in the fraud.

John, and subsequently a female "researcher", both visited the British Council archive to undertake research on Ben Nicholson and were given access to files.

Relations between the

archivist and the female researcher were said to be "extremely cordial" until the archivist returned from lunch one day to discover that the researcher had gained access to archives in her absence and was holding files which she had not been given.

Shortly afterwards the archivist was approached by a prospective buyer, who showed a report which stated that the work in question had been included in a Ben Nicholson exhibition in Japan. It included "misleading" documents from files which had been photocopied.

"We were able to produce photographic evidence that although possessing some detail, John's work was not in fact the work in question," said Andrew Rose, head of art at the British Council. The archivist subsequently contacted Scotland Yard.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A Methodist chapel in Cornwall has offered sanctuary to a Hong Kong Chinese man who went on the run when threatened with deportation by the Home Office. Alfred Tong, of Camborne, near Penzance, who has lived in Britain for 17 years and has a British wife and three-year-old daughter, slept rough for three nights before taking shelter in the church at Marazion after his home was raided by Home Office officials. He fears he will never see his family again if he is deported to Hong Kong.

He was given refuge by the church minister, the Rev Allan Bailey. Though the concept of sanctuary has no legal force in this country, Mr Bailey said he hoped his public opinion would keep Mr Tong safe until his case could come up before the European Court of Human Rights. Both the Anglican Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev Michael Ball, and the chairman of the Cornwall Methodist district have appealed to the Home Office on his behalf. *Andrew Brown*

There has been a disappointing response to the national firearms amnesty. Nearly 5,000 guns were handed in to police during the first week of the amnesty, in the month-long amnesty in 1988, which followed the Hungerford massacre, the public handed in 48,000 firearms and 1.5 million rounds of ammunition.

The Home Office is confident that the total for the current initiative, provoked by the Dunblane tragedy, will rise towards the end of June. So far most guns were recovered in Strathclyde police region, which includes Glasgow, where 245 firearms were handed over, followed by Thames Valley, 219; Dorset, 198; Sussex, 182; Avon and Somerset, 181; Kent and the Metropolitan Police jointly on 157, and Lothian and Borders, 151. *Jason Bennett*

Striking firefighters yesterday rejected offers to prevent further action later this week. Fire crews walked out of stations and control rooms across Derbyshire at 9am at the start of their first nine-hour strike, called after the county council agreed to cut the service's budget by £1.3m. Army Green Goddess fire engines were on standby and emergency calls were diverted to a temporary control room at police headquarters in Matlock.

Martin Doughty, the council leader, said the authority could not afford to abandon the cuts. Compromises were offered to the Fire Brigades' Union during seven hours of talks on Sunday with the conciliatory service Acas. A second nine-hour strike is planned for Saturday, with each day of strike action costing the county council £45,000.

Tony Blair will today pledge to put the revival of manufacturing industry at the top of Labour's industrial strategy. With Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, due to publish a White Paper on competitiveness, Mr Blair will tell a conference at Cranfield School in Bedfordshire, that industrial success means Britain being "strong in Europe".

The Labour leader will say that companies are investing in Britain because it is in Europe, not because the Government has opted out of the Social Charter, which Labour would join. The association of Labour with traditional smoke-stack industries is totally outmoded, but Labour's commitment to manufacturing does not mean "picking winners". *Colin Brown*

The Bank of America yesterday agreed to pay £20,000 compensation to a woman who was refused part-time work or a job share after maternity leave. Kelly French, 28, who was employed as a senior clerk in the bank's Bromley branch in south-east London, claimed sex discrimination when the company insisted she resume her full-time job and then dismissed her after she refused.

Ms French argued that she was only able to work part-time because of her responsibilities towards her first child. Earlier this month 35-year-old Sarah Rolls received £35,000 from IPC Magazines in an out-of-court settlement. Ms Rolls was refused a part-time job after the birth of her second child. *Barrie Clement*

Labour has a lead of 39 percentage points on education over the Tories, compared with a figure of just 12 percentage points in 1993, according to a Gallup poll. Labour sources said yesterday that its private poll showed that it was even further ahead on school standards.

The party believes its recent attack on progressive teaching methods and its criticisms of comprehensive schools have paid dividends. The decision to promote Labour education policies through newspapers which traditionally support the Government has been deliberate. David Blunkett, its education spokesman, will try to exploit the advantage in a debate in the Commons. *Judith Judd*

The Department of Health yesterday acknowledged that a national inquiry into child abuse in residential homes will be considered – but not for some time. With increasing evidence of widespread sexual and physical abuse in homes in various parts of the country over several years, there have been growing calls for a full inquiry.

A health department spokesman said: "We are aware of calls for a nation-wide inquiry into child abuse. Councils already have a duty to investigate allegations of child abuse working with the police and other agencies. While trials against former child care workers continue, decisions on an inquiry cannot be made." *Roger Dobson*

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

		OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Austria	£6.40	Netherlands £5.00
Belgium	£9.80	Italy £4.80
Canada	£10.00	Madagascar £4.20
Cyprus	£6.20	Malta £3.25
Denmark	£14.10	Norway £4.20
Iraq	£4.50	Portugal £3.25
France	£14.50	Spain £3.00
Germany	£14.50	Sweden £2.20
Greece	£16.00	Switzerland £4.00
Luxembourg	£17.00	USA £3.00

Back issues of the *Independent* are available from: *Hedgehog Newspapers*, telephone 0898 402455.

'Best opportunity for peace in 25 years'

This is an extract from the text of the Prime Minister's opening address at Stormont:

Let me, at the outset, welcome everyone here today.

First, the representatives of the parties who were successful in the elections 10 days ago and who have demonstrated their commitment to exclusively peaceful means.

Your presence in these talks is vital – whether you come from the Unionist or the nationalist tradition, or neither. Your success at the ballot box has confirmed your right to be here, and to participate in what, if we wish it to be so, may turn out to be an historic new start.

May I finally welcome the readiness to assist of Senator George Mitchell, General John de Chastelain and former Prime Minister Harry Holker. In response to our invitation, they have kindly indicated their willingness to help in those parts of the negotiations where independent chairmanship is needed. It is not an easy role but it is an indispensable one.

Today we launch a new opportunity to reach lasting peace in Northern Ireland. I believe these negotiations can give a fresh start to relations between the communities here and more widely. I hope they will prove a turning-point for the better in the history of Northern Ireland ...

For too long the history of Northern Ireland has poisoned the present and threatened the future. It is time to end all that, however difficult it may be. History has involved too many victims. Too much blood has been spilt. For too long violence became so much a part of the political background that it almost began to be taken for granted.

Recently we have seen what



Ian Paisley addressing the media outside the gates of Stormont Castle yesterday before the talks began

Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

a Northern Ireland without violence can be like ...

As we meet here today, the people and expectations of the people of Northern Ireland rest on your shoulders ...

They want a life that others take for granted. They want to be able to live their lives normally, free from violence and hatred, and to be respected

whatever their beliefs or views.

Our aim was all-party negotiations. We have not entirely achieved that. One party which achieved success in the elections is absent through its own choice.

I hope that wisdom will soon prevail, and that we will see an unequivocal restoration of the IRA ceasefire.

Without such a ceasefire Sinn Fein cannot be present at these talks. The British and Irish governments are entirely at one on this ...

The absence of such a ceasefire, and the continuing willingness to rely on violence which it shows, is in stark contrast to the commitment to

democracy and peace shown by those here today ...

I believe the talks beginning today represent the best opportunity for peace in the last 25 years. I urge you all to take this opportunity with both hands. History will not forgive us if we do not.

Four wheels good, two wheels better



DAVID ARONOVITCH

In the 1790s the two main protagonists in British politics not only disagreed with each other about things like war, peace, Ireland and the French Revolution, but they also represented two entirely different physical types. As portrayed by the cartoonist Gillray, Charles James Fox, the radical Whig, was dark-haired, thick-set, passionate and indolent. His opponent, William Pitt the Younger, was mousy, thin, elegant, aristocratic and detached.

Two hundred years on, and the clashes between Clare Short, Labour's Transport spokeswoman, and the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir George Young, bring the Gillray pictures to mind. Short is Fox, minus all the effeminate lacy frills – Young, looking like Charles Hawtrey on stilts, could be a rather warmer Pitt.

And on the benches behind them sit the successors of the two traditions: the patrician and the yeoman – each characterised by different sets of interests and recreations.

As we know from all the re-

ason was the cost to her constituents when commuting. But we can well believe that, returning from a good lunch at the Garrick, say, one might not be in fantastical shape to avoid the perils of phantom pedallers. Mr Jessel therefore demanded the return of "good, old-fashioned bicycle bells". That way a chap might stand a chance.

Few Labour members, however, embody more completely the traditions of Cobbett's rudes and Morris's ramblers than our pal, Denis MacShane (recreations? You've guessed it: "family, walking"). Speaking up for cyclists, Denis was angry about the conditions around the House of Commons for "those of us who want to come with our trouser tucked into our socks. Only last week I was knocked off opposite St Stephen's entrance". Which illustrates the difference between the parties perfectly. Can you imagine the consternation in the Tory whip's office had David Mellor uttered those words? Or what Gillray would have made of it?

Use this voucher to try our Summer of Sport midweek supplement giving all the news and background, starting this Wednesday

THE INDEPENDENT for only 10p on Wednesday

To the Readers: Hand the voucher to the newsagent with a copy of *The Independent* on Wednesday 12 June 1996 and pay only 10p. Home delivery customers have until 7 July 1996 to present this voucher to your newsagent. If you have any problems redeeming your voucher, please call telephone 0800 666 823

To the Retailer: Please accept the voucher as part payment for *The Independent* on Wednesday 12 June 1996 (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and address. Please return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 10 July 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer – it is valid for *The Independent* only.

WHOLESALE'S NAME

RETAILER'S NAME

ADDRESS

REF. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Charnwood Farm Rd, Bedale, North Yorkshire, LS17 9SD.

Reader's name _____

Address _____

Ref. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Charnwood Farm Rd, Bedale, North Yorkshire, LS17 9SD.

Reader's name _____

Address _____

Ref. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Charnwood Farm Rd, Bedale, North Yorkshire, LS17 9SD.

Reader's name _____

Address _____

Ref. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Charnwood Farm Rd, Bedale, North Yorkshire, LS17 9SD.

Reader's name _____

Address _____

Ref. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orton Court, Charnwood Farm Rd, Bedale, North Yorkshire, LS17 9SD.

Reader's name _____

Address _____

Ref. SPW10P

9 906480 120300

RETAILER'S BOX NO.

To the wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (PDI 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together

Overweight, with loss of libido, failing eyesight and suffering from stress, the British male prefers to suffer than visit a doctor

So macho, but so many men fit for nothing

GLENDY COOPER

You feel ill. You don't recognise the symptoms. You are in pain. What do you do?

The rational response would be to see the doctor. But according to the first national survey into men's attitudes to health, if you are male you will stock up at the chemist, frightened by reading medical books or gulp down dozens of vitamin pills – anything rather than visit your GP.

Fear of needles, the need to appear macho and failing to demand good health care in the way women have, has meant that men's health is suffering. While three-quarters of men worry about their health, the majority feel they cannot talk to their family doctor. Six out of ten are either not registered with a GP, have never visited their GP or do not know their doctor's name.

But the British male is in a poor state of health. Aware that beer bellies are not supremely attractive, the majority of men have tried to diet. Their greatest fears include weight increase, receding hairlines, loss of libido and failing eyesight and 13 per cent have resigned themselves to having cosmetic surgery in the future.

While men may think about sex every 10 minutes, on average, they have sex one-and-a-half times a week. Six out of ten said they were dissatisfied with their sex life and a quarter had had some form of sexual problem.

Men live on average six years less than women and are 50 per cent more likely to die before the age of 65. Deaths from coronary heart disease are twice those of women and 75 per cent of suicide victims are men.

However, many common male health problems such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, infertility and cancer of the colon, could be dealt with if detected and treated early. Testicular cancer – one of the most common cancers in men aged 15 to 34 – is 95 per cent curable when detected early.

But men continue to neglect their health with the main reason being plain fear, according to a survey of 5,000 men carried out by *Men's Health* magazine. One-third of all men admitted they were nervous of medical procedures. The rest claimed that doctors "lack compassion" and tried to self-diagnose with

Insights on the male dilemma

- Seven out of ten men feel under stress.
- Only 13 per cent of men think they are very healthy.
- Sixty-five per cent say they visit the chemist rather than their GP when they feel ill.
- Four per cent of men think they are very attractive.
- Six out of ten men are not satisfied with their sex life and a quarter say they have had a sexual problem.

Four fitness tips for the modern man

1. Get married. Nearly two thirds of men in a relationship found it less stressful than living alone. Interestingly, however, the reverse is true for women.
2. Indulge in aerobic exercise. This need not involve gyms; it can simply mean clearing the bathroom vigorously. Or many other things; the junior health minister Baroness Cumberlege likes chasing bullocks around a field.
3. Eat spicy foods to speed up your metabolism. If desperate, turn to sushi at lunchtime rather than sandwiches.
4. Have children. They may be exhausting, but they keep you moving.

Four things best avoided

1. Passive football. Sitting on the sofa with cans of beer watching Euro '96 may be fun. But it is bad for the waistline, digestion and temper.
2. Kebabs, particularly eaten on the move. 23 per cent of men have suffered serious indigestion in the last six months.
3. Work-related boozing: drinking with office chums after work every night cannot always be put down to "making contacts".
4. Being a traditional Scot: they are among the least fit Britons. Nor is this wholly down to whisky and cigarettes; the deep-fried Mars bar was invented at Stonehaven near Aberdeen.

the help of medical books rather than visit a surgery.

Most men thought they were reasonably healthy and were able to identify unhealthy high-fat and sugar foods. This was not translated into real life, with salad and fruit coming bottom of the list of favourite foods.

Stress was blamed for taking its toll on men's health with worries about work, money and relationships common. Seven out of ten men said they suffered from stress.

Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, says the insecurity about their role in the world. "Women seem to know where they are going, they have a sense of clarity about what their goals are which men don't," he said. "Men are also more vulnerable because they are not as flexible in the workplace. Women have a history of working part time or on short term contracts which is what employers want. Men feel their role is being displaced by women."

One in three men in Britain admitted to have taken time off work to escape stress an average of five days a year. Given the choice, however, three-quarters of men said they would rather go out to work than stay and look after the house.

The ones who were most content with their lives were married or in a long-term relationship. Nearly two-thirds living with someone found it less stressful than living alone. "Men are much worse at coping with stress," said Professor Cooper. "They don't have the same social support systems. They would rather go out drinking than talk about their problems. They see stress as a sign of weakness and will not admit they are under pressure."

The Health Education Authority is launching a series of initiatives this summer at football clubs and in the armed forces to try and get men to take their health seriously. And as part of Men's Health Week a temporary information helpline was launched yesterday by PPG Healthcare on 0800 335555.



Three-quarters of men worry about their health, but the majority feel they cannot talk to their GP

Photograph: Philip Meech

Liquid-lunchers versus the iron-pumpers

CLARE GARNER

Whether they sweat it out on a stair master or sink a few pints down the pub at lunchtime, most men's men are the same in one respect. Health matters to them – at least in theory. Even your die-hard liquid-luncher murmur's about how he should do more exercise, quit smoking and cut down on the beers.

Beyond that, it comes down to those who take their health by the horns and head for the gym, versus those who opt for more traditional lunch break.

To Peter Pontidas, a trip to the doctor's surgery spells trouble. "I'd have to be very ill to compensate for the hassle of going to a GP. A lot of times, going is a waste of time. If I had 'flu I would just go to the chemist and get some Night Nurse, rather than queue up for two hours," said the 35-year-old banker, all set to heave another weight to the sky at Holmes Place Health Club in the City.

While John Cuthbert, 47, an accountant, is well aware of the benefits of getting a handle on his health (he hasn't had a day off sick since he started going to the gym every lunchtime three years ago) regular screening is out of the question. "No, I wouldn't go for a check-up. I don't think they are necessary. I know my heart's all right and I'm not that worried about myself."

In the smoke-filled Lord Raglan pub down the road, men are downing Guinness with as much gusto as their fitness friends are pumping iron. But raise the subject of health and they look sheepish, their consciences pricked.

Mike Harris, an IT consultant in the City, worries about his health. He even subscribes to *Men's Health* magazine. But that doesn't stop him smoking and drinking his way through his lunch break. "At my sort of age you have to consider how you're going to stay healthy. *Men's Health* has useful articles on everything from the old prostate problems to you name it. I've heard you can go to a well man clinic, but I don't know how to get in touch with one. If I did, I'd probably go for a check-up."

Likewise, he would like to

take more exercise, but can't find the time or money. "I want to do it . . . it's finding the time to do it. It costs £2,000 to £3,000 a year to join a squash club or a gym in the City, so it doesn't seem worth it."

Swanning himself outside, Peter O'Hagan is the exception. Sound in wind and limb, Mr O'Hagan, an investment banker, believes he will stay that way. "I don't really worry about my health. I'm healthy as far as I know," said Mr O'Hagan, 29, an investment banker.

"I know all this thing about cancer and so forth but my family are all smokers. The last member of my family to die, my grandfather, was 95 and he had smoked all his life."

Cut-price paracetamol in Asda's war on drug prices

LOUISE JURY

Supermarket giant Asda slashed the cost of one popular brand of paracetamol yesterday, in the latest round of its law-breaking war on drug price-fixing.

It halved the price of a packet of 24 Anadin Paracetamol from £1.72 to 86p, in a move which was condemned by manufacturers and pharmacists for breaching long-standing Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) laws designed to ensure the survival of small pharmacies as a public service.

The pharmacists immediately called on Asda to reverse the measure until after an Office of Fair Trading (OFT) inquiry into RPM reports later this year. Whitehall Laboratories, Anadin's manufacturers, said it was considering bringing legal action.

But Gwynn Burr, Asda's marketing director, said: "We can't sell this straightforward commodity product at this price with a straight face."

The margins on Anadin Paracetamol are amongst the highest available to any retailer in Britain. They rank along-

side high fashion and expensive perfume."

The mark-up on over-the-counter drugs and vitamins amounted to a £300m hidden tax on the British consumer every year, he added.

Asda launched its campaign against the RPM laws last October by cutting the cost of 82 well-known brands of vitamins and minerals by up to 20 per cent.

It was forced to put the prices up again two weeks later, after an injunction was served by manufacturers Seven Seas and Roche. But the warning prompted the OFT investigation.

A Whitehall Laboratories spokesman said the company believed it was the "responsibility of every interested party to await the outcome of the OFT review . . . before taking any action".

Tim Astill, director of the National Pharmaceutical Association of 12,000 pharmacists, said members believed Asda's action threatened the survival of small pharmacists, because they could not offer such discounts, even if they were legal.

"This would deprive millions of people of access not only to a full range of medicines but also to a convenient source of health-care advice and a dispensary for their prescriptions. It would especially hit the less mobile."

He was also concerned that Asda described paracetamol as a "mundane health aid".

"Paracetamol can be dangerous if too much is taken. Discounting to make people buy more shows a reckless disregard on the part of Asda for the safety of its customers."

David Dickenson, who investigates drug prices for the Consumers Association, said there was increasing evidence that the cost of medicines was putting people off buying them. Anything that made them more affordable for more people was good news.

But he wondered whether the RPM was necessary to support pharmacists. "The question is . . . whether consumers paying artificially high prices for medicines is the best way to keep a high street service in medicines and advice going."

Phillip Evans, the association's senior policy advisor, said supermarkets reported a 100 per cent mark-up on RPM medicines, compared with 20 per cent on groceries, although the National Pharmaceutical Association claimed only a 30 per cent margin existed on its goods.

Mr Evans challenged the motives of those supporting the RPM. The smallest independent pharmacists won 70 per cent of their revenue from prescriptions which were not affected by the agreement, he argued, and manufacturers stood to lose out if the laws which allowed them to dictate prices were abolished.

RPM laws also covered books until last year, when the collapse of the Net Book Agreement under pressure from Asda and publishers signalled the unofficial end of price-fixing in the market. This is expected to be ratified by the courts.

Although some of the prices of some books tumbled, the expected revival in trade did not take place and some publishers subsequently reported a fall in profits.

Millionaire gifts Britain gold and silverware collection worth £75m

PETER VICTOR

A British-born millionaire is to hand over a £75m collection of gold and silver as a gift to the British nation.

Last night Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister announced that £15.5m from the National Lottery will be used to refurbish Somerset House, in London, where the works will be displayed.

The Gilbert Collection will be the largest ever gift of works of art of its kind to the nation. It includes gold and silverware, gold boxes and micro-mosaics – ornaments covered in tiny mosaic patterns – collected by Mr Gilbert over the past 27 years. Born in Golders Green,

north London, and now living in Los Angeles, Mr Gilbert made his millions from property development.

His collection includes pieces which were regarded as serious losses to this nation's heritage when they were exported. Until now it has been housed in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, but Mr Gilbert said it had outgrown the space available.

Mr Gilbert was in England yesterday to sign a provisional agreement document with Michael Heseltine to seal the transfer although final details have yet to be worked out. He said he was delighted his collection was coming to England. "I always love England."

Somerset House, in the Strand, designed by Sir William Chambers, is one of London's most important Enlightenment buildings. It currently houses the Inland Revenue and the Royal Court of Justice, along with other Government departments and the Courtauld Institute.

It is hoped the new galleries will be ready for the millennium. Until then it is hoped to tour parts of the Gilbert Collection through the UK.

Mr Gilbert was given a guided tour of Somerset House last week and saw the Central Hall which would be the main focus of the exhibit. The scheme would mean that public records archives stored in the building would be moved to Sheffield.

Fax at the touch of a button



from £189

Is your office fax always tied up? Why not fax directly from your PC? BT can provide your business with the modem and software you need for as little as £189 (plus VAT). With a PC fax you can send a document to any number of people in a matter of seconds. Leaving your employees free to squeeze more into a working day. To turn your personal computers into personal fax machines call BT Business Connections now.

Freephone 0800 800 800

PC COMMUNICATIONS Faxing made simple.

Work smarter
not just harder



news



Making a splash: Maureen Braithwaite and Wills Morgan on the lake at Kenwood House, Hampstead, north London, where they will be starring in Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* as part of the English Heritage open-air concert season, which opens on Saturday. Photograph: Philip Meech



BUY A MINOLTA ZOOM COMPACT. YOU'LL BE SNAPPING AT EACH OTHER ALL DAY.

"Just what you've
always wanted"

MINOLTA

Minolta (UK) Ltd, Rockley Park, President Drive, Rockley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8HF.

GP reforms to revive cottage hospital care

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

The most radical changes in 50 years to the way family doctor services are organised and delivered were trailed yesterday by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health.

They could mean the revival and development of new-style "cottage hospitals" with X-ray, diagnostics, day surgery and respite beds which could provide a wide range of additional services from physiotherapy and pharmacy to mental health and care for the elderly. Private finance is likely to be used to develop them. Over time, nurses and others would be likely to gain more prescribing rights.

More GPs could be salaried, working for community trusts or partnerships, rather than operating as at present as independent contractors. Some could split their contract between day

and night services, ending the traditional 24-hour responsibility of GPs for their patients.

The traditional boundary between money for hospital and community services and that for primary care could go, with health care being funded from a single budget. That would make easier the transfer of new technologies and resources out of hospitals and into primary care - and might eventually lead to a Treasury ambition of a single, cash-limited budget for all

of health care. The changes would be undertaken, he said, on a voluntary basis, going ahead only where there was "professional support" for testing them and "without removing the option of continuing to practice within the current arrangements".

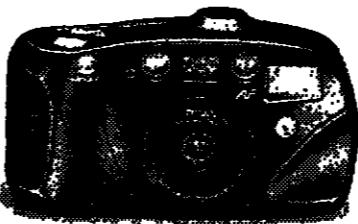
Mr Dorrell's approach lets him escape negotiating a new contract with the increasingly restless GPs this side of the general election. Should Labour win, it also avoids binding them to a rigid set of changes.

The GPs' traditional role as "gatekeeper" to the rest of the NHS must remain, the document says. Services must be developed against principles of quality, fairness, accessibility, responsiveness and efficiency, including clinical effectiveness.

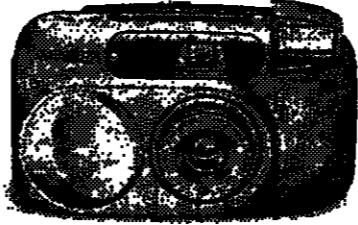
The aim is to "keep the traditional strengths of general practice" while allowing "more flexibility and greater choice" in the way services are delivered, particularly given the unacceptable variation in how well primary care is delivered around the country.

The shift from imposing changes to piloting and negotiating them was welcomed by the British Medical Association and health authorities. Dr Ian Bogle, the BMA's GPs' chairman, said he was glad ministers had listened to family doctors' worries about growing workload, unnecessary bureaucracy and worsening morale and recruitment problems. Any changes, however, would have to be "adequately resourced".

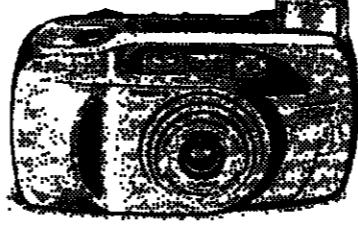
Primary Care: The Future, NHS Executive. Copies from 0800 555777.



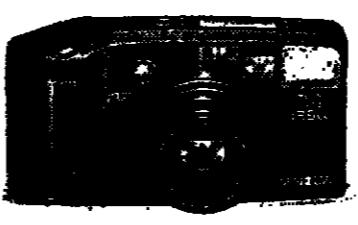
Pico 38-60mm Zoom
Fully automatic. High quality aspherical Zoom lens. Self timer. Versatile auto flash with red-eye reduction. £109.99



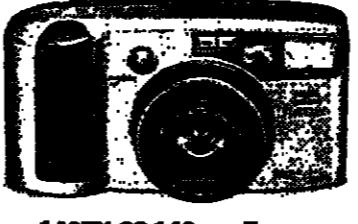
70W 28-70mm Zoom
Ultra wide-angle 28mm to 70mm telephoto Zoom lens. Stylish "pebble-shaped" design. Soft flash for natural looking portraits. Also available in black. £189.99



115EX 38-115mm Zoom
Soft flash for natural portraits and close-ups. Striking "capsule" design. Fully retractable Zoom lens and flash. Aluminium casing. Also available in black. £219.99



135EX 38-135mm Zoom
Five shooting modes to match your subject. Macro, Portrait, Night Portrait, Take Me, and Spot Metering. £249.99



140EX 38-140mm Zoom
The world's smallest Zoom compact in its class. Five shooting modes to match your subject. Stylish aluminium casing. £339.99



Minolta Compact Zoom kits
All Minolta Zoom compacts shown above are also available in kits, with soft case, 3 rolls of Fuji 400 Super G film and battery. The 135EX and 140EX kits also include Infra-Red remote control. The prices shown above are for the cameras only.

Labour set to cool on workers' rights

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

In the teeth of union opposition Labour is expected to water down its commitment to give employees the right to appeal against unfair dismissal.

While party leaders recently backed a law to give protection to workers from "day one", Labour working parties are set to amend the proposal to "six months before qualifying".

In a keynote speech at the GMB general union's annual conference in Blackpool yesterday, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, cut out a reference to awarding rights from the first day of employment. He later said that nothing should be read into the omission, but senior party figures are known to favour the six-month option.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, declared that

he would strongly oppose any attempt to tone down Labour's policy. "It would mean employers like Burger King would start using five-month contracts and if the statutory period was a month it would come down to three weeks," he said yesterday.

"If an employer takes someone on as an employee then that should immediately confer rights on that particular employee."

He said that the policy stipulating immediate protection had not been rescinded and the arguments in favour of it were "overwhelming".

Meanwhile leaders of "new Labour" were warned yesterday not to go over the heads of the big unions in forging relationships with employers.

Mr Edmonds said unions should provide the link between the party and industry. Labour's ideas of social partnership was "not just an ideal for the future", it was already a reality for the GMB. He said unions provided a "gateway for employers to talk to and understand the Labour Party's plans for the world of work".

DAILY POEM

Sheol

By Craig Raine

*A Polish midwife was assisting at my birth.
And I gave birth to a beautiful girl.
There on the stones. In my own filth.
No soap. No cotton wool. Without hot water.*

*I went to my cot. No mattress, just a cover.
And in the morning, Mengèle.
My breasts were bandaged up:
to see how long a new-born lives*

*deprived of food. I had no choice.
Each day I chewed my bread
and wrapped it in a scrap of cloth
I soaked in soup. A peasant dummy.*

*With this I fed my child. My God.
and every day came Mengèle.
Soon she had no strength to cry.
She only whimpered, and my milk got up.*

*I couldn't give her anything.
Except, about the sixth or seventh day,
the syringe of morphine.*

*Cut slanted like a quill.
And warm from Mata Steinberg's hand.
I can understand ghosts.
How they have to come back.*

*What it costs to return
through the bricks of a house.
Eyes tight shut.
Weeping, broken skin.*

Craig Raine was born in 1944 and educated at Exeter College, Oxford. Editor of *Quarto* in 1979 and subsequently Poetry Editor at Faber from 1981 to 1991, he is now Fellow in English at New College, Oxford. *Clay. Whereabouts Unknown*, (Penguin, £7.99) from which this poem is taken, is his first volume of poems in 10 years. Previous collections include *A Martian Sends a Postcard Home* (1979) and *Rich* (1984).

Forgeries find easy access to art market

A leading 'copyist' reveals to **Rebecca Fowler** how simple it is to fake it in the art world

The easiest paintings in the world to forge are modern British masters, says a leading 'copyist' who makes an honest living from recreating works and pastiches of the greatest names in art history.

Leo Stevenson, 38, has emulated artists from Vermeer to Monet and Magritte. He is also expert in the processes used to create a false provenance for a work and the materials that would render the final product convincing.

According to Stevenson, painters have become less technically challenging with time. The Impressionists are in turn easier than the Old Masters, while contemporary art is the most easy to imitate, although they still demand a degree of skill.

Even Ben Nicholson, who is more 'painterly' than most, would not be relatively unchallengeable than many, and you'd need to know more about tone and colour and paint. But it would be like falling off a log compared to one of the Dutch masters," Stevenson said.

He added: "But a work of art is only as good as its provenance, so a forger's main task is always the creation of relevant documents. This is often far harder to do convincingly than the creation of the artwork. With modern artists, the amount of information you need is relatively small."

Stevenson protects his own works from being mistaken for the genuine article with invisible sign-offs that would be picked up by X-ray. His latest work, a copy of *The Concert* by Vermeer, which took him 700 hours to paint, includes the words "Elvis Lives" underneath the lute.

But he is aware of exactly how the unscrupulous would create a painting from nothing to sell as an authentic work.

The first objective is to find a canvas from the right period through trawling auction houses, stripping it of paint, while it still has the correct marks on the back.

The forger would then choose a subject that the original artist had either used in a series of paintings, like Monet who painted endless versions of

the same thing, or they would focus on a gap in the artist's life. The Vermeer forgeries of the 1940s, for example, were based on the most obscure part of his career.

Stevenson said: "Unless you are a genius, you are never going to get into the soul of the person. But if the artist did a whole series of something, it's not hard to slip an extra one in. Or if it's something the artist was known to have done, without much detail, the bait is already on the hook."

Once the copy or pastiche has been finished, the question is how much scrutiny it will stand. While Old Masters can be tested for chemical changes in the paint, using X-ray and gas layer chromatography, the more recent works are still too young.

A number of paintings that are more than 100 years old and were presented as the works of masters have been revealed using fluorescence X-ray to be the work of minor painters. While the paintings were clearly old, the signatures glowed luminously, revealing they were additions.

Among the other additions Stevenson has made to his own pastiches include the words "Bennetton" on the cloak of a figure in a work that might be mistaken for a Franz Hals, and his copy of Canaletto's *Venetian Lagoon* conceals a submarine lurking beneath the first layer of paint.

Stevenson is convinced that until the art market is prepared to wake up to the possibility of forgeries, it will remain a relatively easy art for those who practise it.

"Once something is in writing, in the catalogue or the archive, it is phenomenal the ease with which people will accept it is genuine. It's a bit like telling people not to believe everything they read in the newspapers, only ten times worse. They can be so gullible," he said.

"But for those of us who practise copying and pastiche honestly, it is no different to a classical musician who plays someone else's music and who can get a great deal of pleasure from that. It's half-way between academic and pure artistry – and it is honest."



Master copier: Leo Stevenson with some of the paintings he has recreated, complete with invisible sign-offs.

Photograph: Colin McKillop

From the Old Masters to contemporary art – the copyists' guide to the gallery

<p>The easiest</p> <p>Frank Stella Jackson Pollock (pastiche only) Andy Warhol Henry Moore Mark Rothko</p>	<p>The hardest</p> <p>Raphael Vermeer Franz Hals Ingres Van Dyke Michelangelo</p>
---	--



*Andy Warhol's Marilyn Diptych. Copyright: ARS, NY
1995. © 1995*



*Van Dyck's portrait of Thomas Wentworth
Trustees of Weston Park Foundation*

David Lister examines the rise of pastiching as a successful modern day art form

Those who can, paint. Those who can and want to make money, pastiche. The most overheard snippet of conversation in any self-respecting modern art gallery is: "But I could have done that." Behind the phrase is an art form.

Pastiching is widespread, both in its respectable, highly-skilled and lucrative guise and in its illegal, fraudulent and also lucrative guise that *Independent* investigations have uncovered. Even the name pasticheur has a borrowed-from-Montmartre feel. If pasticheurs seem to be multiplying, it could be because some 20th-century art has proved a relatively easy number to pastiche.

In the late 1960s, American researchers fed the details of paintings by Paul Klee into a computer programmed to detect patterns in shapes and colours. After analysing the paintings, the computer was able to generate more "school of Klee" originals. Prints of the genuine Klee's and the machine Klee's were then given to art students to see if they could tell which were which. The results showed that they could not.

When they were asked to interpret the paintings, they found no difficulty in doing so if they were told one had been produced by a human hand, but when told a picture was computer-generated, they said that no interpretation was possible. Oddly, despite that success, computers have been only sparingly used in pastiching famous artists.

Questioning art students and drawing experts, a shortlist of artists ripe for pastiching emerges. Jean Miro's flat, spoddy, childlike shapes were cited frequently. Rothko's blurred, soft discs of colour were another popular choice.

But the success of installation art means that copyists and pasticheurs are also having to adjust. Contemporary pastiche needs less of an eye for stylistic idiosyncrasies than hitherto. But it does demand contacts. If you can cultivate the chap at the local slaughter house for a deceased cow, and chat up the security guard at the morgue for a tub of formaldehyde...

THE GA ESCALATOR BOND

The GA Escalator Bond is a unique 6 year investment, designed to provide you with the opportunity to earn a potentially extraordinary return. And your initial investment plus any growth will be secure, provided you leave your investment for 6 years.

Your Bond will commence on 1st August 1996. On this date the value of the FT-SE 100 and S&P 500 Indices will be measured. Then on each anniversary, the performance of both these Indices will be reviewed.

As long as they have both either grown, or even remained the same as their respective values 12 months previously, you will automatically receive 15% growth on the initial value of your investment for that year, payable at the end of the term. For example, if the Indices do not fall in 5 out of 6 years you could get 75% growth on your capital at the end of the term. And what's more, if either should have fallen, your initial investment plus any growth previously allocated will be totally protected on maturity.

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

ACT NOW!
TO REQUEST MORE DETAILS
CALL FREE:
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
0500 100 200

Or complete the coupon and send to:
Escalator Bond Investments,
General Accident,
FREEPOST, YO550, YORK YO1 1BR.

GA
General Accident

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primescare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover – at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primescare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group



Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title: First name:
Please use block capitals
Surname: Date of birth:

Address:
Postcode:

Please (inc. STB code) Day: Evening:

Date of birth of the oldest person requiring cover:

Cover required: Single Married Family Single parent family

If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date:

Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 8YL
M02418NG

europe

Crisis in Europe: Right-wingers in meeting with Sir James Goldsmith pledge to back Bill Cash on eve of crucial vote

100 rebel MPs to defy Major on referendum

DONALD MACINTYRE,
COLIN BROWN and
JOHN RENTOUL

Up to 100 Tory MPs are expected to take part in a show of strength by Euro-sceptics today in the Commons in a move which will make it more difficult for John Major to retreat from the policy of non-cooperation in Europe.

The Prime Minister will risk facing a rebellion by seeking sup-

port for his European strategy in a Commons debate next week before the European Union summit in Florence at the end of the month. It was seen last night as an attempt to reunite the party.

Tory MPs will today defy their whips by voting for a Bill introduced by Bill Cash, a long-term opponent of the Government's approach to Europe, calling for a referendum on moves towards a federal Europe.

The Bill has no chance of reaching the statute book, but

the vote is likely to underline the growing support among Tory backbenchers for the Prime Minister's tough stand over the beef ban in Europe.

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, has thrown his weight behind the Bill, in a warning to keep his party on board if Mr Major wishes to maintain its support in a confidence vote.

The pro-Euro MPs want Mr Major to call an end to the blocking action before the Florence summit, but today's vote will make it clear to the Prime Minister that he could face trouble from more than half the Tory backbench if he retreats without a convincing victory.

The rebels' numbers were being swelled last night after a warning by leading Euro-sceptics that their only hope of averting a challenge by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party was to back Mr Cash's Bill.

That became clear as Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and other senior Tories, including Mr Cash, joined Sir James at a meeting of the Conservative Philosophy Group at the home of Jonathan Aitken, the former Treasury minister.

John Redwood, a leading Euro-sceptic, refused an invitation on the grounds that it would discuss the prospects for withdrawal from the EU. Mr Redwood said he was in favour of a "single market, not a single state", but was not seeking withdrawal.

One Euro-sceptic said yesterday that a vote for Mr Cash was a "necessary but not sufficient" condition of persuading Sir James not to field candidates in an MP's constituency.

Members of the Philosophy Group heard a presentation of the arguments for and against Britain leaving the EU from Mr Lamont. Regular attendees at meetings of the group of fashionably right-wing politicians, journalists and academics include David Davis, the Europe minister, Iain Duncan-Smith, the Euro-sceptic MP, Paul Johnson, the journalist, and Roger Scruton, the right-wing thinker.

such as Teresa Gorman. The other three say that Britain should first try to renegotiate the terms of its membership.

On the Labour side of the House, membership of the Labour Common Market Safeguards Committee is still falling. The eight Tory MPs, who were excluded from the parliamentary party for six months until a year ago, are currently on tour speaking on platforms entitled "In or Out?"

All eight argue that Britain should leave the EU. Five have declared that Britain should leave immediately, including Sir Teddy Taylor and Sir Richard Body, who rebelled against the whip to vote against going into the European Economic Community in 1971, but also more recently elected MPs

ously be contemplated. That is what Norman Lamont and Jonathan Aitken said after they left the Government.

The backing of former Cabinet heavyweights means that the "Westminster Eight" are beginning to march out of the wilderness. The eight Tory MPs, who were excluded from the parliamentary party for six months until a year ago, are currently on tour speaking on platforms entitled "In or Out?"

All eight argue that Britain should leave the EU. Five have declared that Britain should leave immediately, including Sir Teddy Taylor and Sir Richard Body, who rebelled against the whip to vote against going into the European Economic Community in 1971, but also more recently elected MPs



From left: Labour's Austin Mitchell, Dennis Skinner; Tory Teddy Taylor, Teresa Gorman
Old guard's stand on withdrawal gains favour

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Now that the taboo on discussing the option of Britain pulling out of the European Union has been broken, the old guard of anti-Europeans find their long-neglected arguments suddenly respectable.

William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, triggered the latest wave of speculation that this could become an issue at Cabinet level when he said 10 days ago: "Of course Britain could be outside the EU if it wanted to be."

It turned out that he was in fact only stating the obvious rather than saying, as some MPs are in private, he felt Britain had nearly come to the position where withdrawal should seri-



We
sentence
you
to
life.



150 من الأصل

'Crazy' policy threat to fish

Fisheries minister Tony Baldry yesterday hit out at Europe's "crazy" fishing policy, which he said was a licence to foreign boats to plunder Britain's precious national stocks.

He warned the Brussels Commission that British agreement to slim down the trawler fleet on conservation grounds was out of the question while "quota hopping" continued.

The Government is still smarting from a European Court ruling, which outlawed measures to keep UK fish in British hands.

The judges effectively sanctioned companies being set up in the UK by other EU trawlermen, mostly Spanish.

This enables them to qualify for British licences and a share in Britain's quota of European fish stocks.

Mr Baldry is insisting on a remedy to keep out the foreigners, with changes to the EU treaty if necessary.

"Fishing is not part of the single market. We have national quotas and they should be for national fishermen," he said, following talks with fellow European Union fisheries ministers in Luxembourg.

"We have the ludicrous situation of Spanish boats with Spanish crews and Spanish skippers leaving Spanish ports to fish in our waters and then returning to port to land our fish. It comes off the UK quota, not their own. It has to be stopped," he declared.

Until a half is called, Mr Baldry says the further belt-tightening demanded by Brussels, a minimum 40-per-cent reduction in the size of the 10,000-strong British trawler fleet, is "wholly unacceptable and wholly unsustainable".

Only about 150 foreign-owned vessels are involved in British waters but they take a substantial share of the UK's annual quota: forty-six per cent of hake, 29 per cent of mackerel, 44 per cent of plaice and 18 per cent of sole have gone abroad.

Forty years ago the chances of long-term survival for a patient with cancer were minimal.

Today, despite one in three people in Britain being diagnosed as having cancer at some time in their lives, many of these cancers can now be cured.

A major factor in this dramatic and revolutionary turn of events has been the introduction of anti-cancer medicines, which can now target the exact location of a tumour within the patient.

The pharmaceutical industry spends more than £5 million a day in Britain on the research and development of new medicines. It works closely with Government and charities in a partnership that is bringing real hope for cancer patients.

Nearly 50 new compounds for cancer treatment or diagnosis are now on trial in the UK and each costs around £200 million to research and develop.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has produced a booklet which describes some of the latest advances made by British-based pharmaceutical companies in the search for new medicines.

If you would like a copy of "Target Cancer", call our "Healthline" now on Freephone 0800 722 711 or write to us at the address below. We think you'll agree that information and understanding is the first and most vital step in the treatment of cancer.



The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY.

A picture of health for generations

international

Lebanese carnage: Death of five more soldiers shows Israel will continue to pay dearly for occupation zone.

Hizbollah killings blow truce to shreds

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

In the most devastating attack staged by the Hizbollah inside southern Lebanon this year, five Israeli occupation troops were killed yesterday and another six wounded. However, the guerrillas appear to have stayed within the terms of the ceasefire accord, which Shimon Peres's government agreed six weeks ago. By contrast, the Israelis seem to have broken the agreement when they retaliated for yesterday's assault by firing 80 shells across Lebanon, killing a Lebanese army sergeant and wounding three civilians. As a Lebanese friend put it a few hours after Israel's latest losses in Lebanon: "The ceasefire is holding - the fighting continues."

In reality, of course, there is no ceasefire. The unsigned paper that Israel, Syria, Lebanon and the United States approved to allow Mr Peres to escape his bloody Lebanese adventure six weeks ago is already ignored by both sides. The much-trumpeted US-French-Syrian-Israeli-Lebanese ceasefire "monitoring group" is non-existent.

The State Department, so the Lebanese have been informed, has even told Israel that it does not have to abide by the terms of the truce but can "hit back" whenever it wants if its soldiers are attacked in occupied southern Lebanon.

Yesterday, it did just that. It was 5.30am when the Hizbollah men inside the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon attacked a patrol returning from the artillery compound on a hilltop at Dubois, firing at them with heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Some reports said that the Hizbollah made fire with Israeli-made mortars, weapons that were given to the Lebanese Phalange militia who fought for Israel during the 1975-90 civil war but who later sold their armament to the highest bidder - and that the battle lasted for at least an hour. Within minutes, Israeli artillery had opened fire at villages east of Nabatia, killing the Lebanese soldier

who was stationed at an army checkpoint outside the town and wounding the three civilians. In all, the Israelis fired 80 shells into the Nabatia area.

UN troops described the initial attack, which the Hizbollah claimed was further retaliation for the Israeli massacre of civilians at Qana on 18 April, as a "major confrontation".

The offensive, the bloodiest since Binyamin Netanyahu won the Israeli election by promising increased "security" for Israelis, means that the prime minister-elect in his first days in office will confront the same military problem as his predecessor, Mr Peres: the cost of occupying one tenth of Lebanon, while maintaining that any resistance to that occupation constitutes "terrorism".

It is a price that is likely to climb much higher, and which threatens to plunge Lebanon into another bloody confrontation with Israel.

We may have to wait a little longer for "Operation Grapes of Wrath Part 2" but the "ceasefire's" track record shows all too clearly how damaging is the Hizbollah's war against Israeli occupation. A glance at the events of the past 10 days also shows just how preposterous were the original terms of the truce. On 30 May, even as Israeli votes were still being counted, two command-detached bombs in the occupied town of Marjayoun killed four Israeli soldiers, including a colonel, and wounded another seven and a Lebanese militiaman in Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army.

This appeared to breach a clause in the ceasefire agreement, which stipulated that "civilian areas ... will not be used as launching grounds for attack." But Marjayoun is inside the occupied zone and may not have been considered a civilian area. Since a local journalist was also wounded by the second bomb, however, this was a violation of the truce.

Next day, Israeli planes dumped tear gas over Marjayoun, almost 70 miles from Marjayoun, wounding three Lebanese civilians. an



Photograph: Reuter

Guerrillas make presence felt in blood

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Israel has seldom been fortunate in Lebanon. It was in an early foray across the Lebanese border against the Vichy French in 1941 that Moshe Dayan, Israel's most famous soldier, lost his left eye to a sniper, requiring him to wear what became the world's most famous eye patch.

Subsequent Israeli intervention has never produced the results expected. The ambush of an Israeli patrol by Hizbollah guerrillas early yesterday morning, in which five soldiers were killed and eight wounded, underlines the failure of the 17-day Israeli bombardment of south Lebanon in April. "We were completely surprised," one of the wounded men told Israeli radio.

It is the second ambush since the Israeli election, bringing to nine the number of Israeli dead. Both attacks show careful planning, good intelligence

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

to ignore Israel's ask if the firing of the Sam-7 wasn't a true violation. Perhaps, replied the head of the pro-Israeli militia at Beit Yaqoub, wounding one Israeli soldier. No breaches of the ceasefire agreement here: all the attacks were in open country and targeted only military personnel.

But how long can this go on? How soon after he forms his

and the use of well-trained guerrillas. Israeli military sources confirmed Hizbollah's claim that an entire patrol from the Nahal infantry brigade, returning to its base near Beaufort castle, was killed or wounded.

Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said the attack in Lebanon was "serious" and Israel would "respond at a time and place of its own choosing". After flying to south Lebanon

international

Italy tires of secessionist antics

Insults and publicity stunts do not a revolution make: such was the message Italian voters sent yesterday to Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League, who spent the past month embroiled in a flamboyant campaign to split Italy and set up an independent republic in the northern third of the country.

As results came in from elections in 160 communities, it became clear the League's antics had failed to make any but the most negative impression. Mr Bossi's party came in poor third in each of the key northern cities - Mantua, Pavia and Lodi - where League candidates were running for mayor.

Instead, candidates from the governing centre-left Olive Tree alliance led in all three cities and looked in a strong position to win the elections in next week's

Voters reject the Northern League, writes Andrew Gumbel in Rome

run-off with the centre-right Freedom Alliance. "The League got what it deserved," said Fabio Mussi, parliamentary floor leader of the left-wing PDS and one of Mr Bossi's harshest critics.

In the run-up to the elections the League established a separate "government" in the north and called for independence and a separate currency. Mr Bossi compared himself to Gandhi, described his detractors as riff-raff and fascists and dressed his supporters in militaristic green shirts.

Were Mr Bossi's an orthodox secessionist movement, one could conclude that his dreams of an independent Padania, as he has renamed his core constituency,

had been shattered. The elections were certainly a setback, especially after the League's strong showing in the general election in April but whether they will be enough to silence Italy's most volatile politician is another matter.

It has never been entirely clear if Mr Bossi is serious about secession, or if he is using it as a propaganda tool to pressure the government into delivering what his voters really want: greater local autonomy, less bureaucratic hassle from Rome and, above all, lower and less complicated taxes.

Yesterday one of Mr Bossi's most prominent lieutenants, the former speaker of the Rome parliament, Irene Pivetti, ad-

mitted that Padania was more a "poetic expression" than a geographical reality and described secession as no more than a talking-point. Yet the campaigns and threats of civil disobedience are carrying on.

Yesterday provincial authorities in Mantua, which are in League hands, slapped an eviction order on the office of the central government prefect for the area, a provocation intended to stir up debate on the role and questionable usefulness of the office of prefect.

The League's "government", held its first cabinet meeting in a Venetian palace looted by an aristocratic sympathiser. And in the industrial town of Mestre, across the lagoon, a breakaway

group of anti-tax protesters staged a noisy rally.

The past month has brought out the two key characteristics of the League. On the one hand, its value as a political force is severely limited. "It dresses itself up as a national protest movement but in fact its strength on the ground is patchy at best," said another senior parliamentarian from the government benches, Diego Masi.

On the other hand, as a propaganda machine and a permanent thorn in the side of the establishment, it can be remarkably effective. The secession campaign may have outraged ministers but has also scared them into acting more quickly than they otherwise

might to address the appalling tax and administration legacy of the past.

Yesterday, as the prefect of Mantua was being evicted, the Regional Affairs Minister, Franco Bassani, admitted pre-

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Action under heavy pressure from black ministers, the US federal authorities said yesterday they are looking into the possibility of a white supremacist conspiracy in the burning of black churches across the South. "Given the pattern, we would be nuts not to look at a conspiracy," the Assistant Treasury Secretary for Enforcement, James Johnson, said after a visit from church leaders who were enraged about the fires that have destroyed about 30 black churches in the South over the past 18 months.

After a meeting with the Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, Rev Mac Charles Jones, of the National Council of Churches, said the government may have to declare a state of emergency to half the burning. Police in Charlotte, North Carolina, announced they had arrested a 13-year-old white girl for starting a fire that destroyed a black church there last week. *Washington - Reuter*

The death toll in two landslides in China's south-west, which buried gold miners under hundreds of tons of mud, has risen to 100, with another 138 missing. More than 1,000 rescue workers were still digging through the mud and rocks to reach the entrances to the mines on Luojinshan mountain in Yunnan province in which the 138 miners who are still missing have been buried since the landslides on 31 May and 3 June, the official Xinhua news agency said. *Peking - Reuter*

Mongolian firefighters dropped by parachute have put out, or controlled, the last of the massive prairie and forest fires that raged for months across the country, killing 25 people. "All the fires are put out," Gansukh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in Ulan Bator. (Many Mongolians use only one name.) Rain helped to extinguish some of the fires, he said. Firefighters who were dropped by parachute tackled eight fires, including two which were burning about 70 kilometres from Ulan Bator on Saturday. *he said. Peking - Reuter*

The worst ever salmonella poisoning epidemic in Hungary claimed its first victim yesterday, when an 80-year-old man with a history of heart problems died in hospital. The epidemic has been traced to a cold strawberry soup - a summertime favourite - delivered by a Budapest catering company to a number of schools, kindergartens and old age pensioners' homes late last week. Almost 500 people were hospitalised after eating the soup and some 4,000 more suffered with fever, diarrhoea and vomiting. Many of the small children affected were yesterday said to be still in serious but not critical condition due to dehydration. *Adrian Bridge, Budapest*

At least 72 people were reported to have died in a fire on board a ship in the Red Sea off the coast of Eritrea. Most of them were Ethiopians. The ship, which was reportedly carrying 105 people, caught fire on Thursday near Dahlak island, off Asmara. The boat was illegally attempting to cross the maritime border that separates Eritrea and Saudi Arabian waters, Radio Eritrea said. The accident was not reported until yesterday. The cause of the fire and the name of the ship were not immediately known. *Asmara, Eritrea - AP*

Zimbabwe's white health minister may have wed a 15-year-old peasant by accident and turned bigamist in what he thought was a spoof ceremony for an anti-Aids drive. Timothy Stamps, 59, thought the traditional bride price he "paid" for Stella Gurira, during a visit he made last month to her village, was a humorous way to thank her community for a clinic that they had built. But Stella's parents say they need to talk to Mr Stamps so he can clarify his intentions toward their daughter. *Harrow - Reuter*

Phone lines are open 8am-8pm Monday-Friday and 10am-2pm Saturday. Calls may be recorded and monitored. Issued by Midland Bank plc.



Master images: A visitor to the exhibition in the Unter den Linden examines an outsize bust of the writer Maxim Gorky, considered the founder of the doctrine of socialist realism; in the background, Stalin looks on. *Photograph: AP*

Art and the dictators: Übermensch struts his stuff again in Berlin, courtesy of a British show

Germans get the picture of the Nazi era

IMRE KARACS
Berlin

Muscular idols of Stalin's Russia and Aryan heroes of the Third Reich met yesterday on the fault-line of European history, brought together on the Unter den Linden by a British exhibition dealing with art under tyranny.

"Art and Power", first shown 18 months ago at the Hayward Gallery, in London, offers Germans a rare view of the oeuvres that whipped them into a frenzy more than half a century ago. Much Nazi art is still held in quarantine in the US and at a heavily guarded warehouse in Munich, lest it should infect the nation again.

The other stuff, of the socialist-realist kind, was mass-produced and displayed throughout East Germany's 40-year existence. The architectural merits of that era can still be assessed at the brutalist Alexanderplatz, near the Museum of German History, which is staging the exhibition.

The show, sponsored by the Council of Europe, was imported almost unaltered from London and is presented as a British view. It is meant to be "thoughtful and reflective", says Henry Meyric Hughes, curator of the original exhibition and who is also involved with its Berlin revival. "It is an attempt to make people reconsider history in a less emotive way."

In London, learned brows were furrowed at suggestions

that the images projected by the different creeds of the epoch - Francoism, Italian Fascism, Nazism and Soviet Communism - bore more than a passing resemblance. But Berliners, who have had a front-seat view of the cataclysmic events of this century, are unlikely to be troubled by such comparison.

From today, they will be able to judge for themselves. For instance, those blond athletes, clutching bouquets and saluting the man on a dais wearing military fatigues are *Übermenschen* of a different kind. The banner of Lenin in the background gives away their land of origin.

The Nazis were as fond of using beefcakes to glorify the working man as Stalin's war artists. Whatever their ideological differences, neither camp could find any room on its canvas for a less outstanding human specimen, down to the size of the genitalia.

In both Moscow and Berlin, the supreme leaders of the nation took a personal interest in the arts. Many of the German works were commissioned by the century's most infamous amateur painter and early evidence of the Führer's budding talent, the sketch of a building, is also on display.

There is a lot of fine art, too. Works of artists labelled "degenerate" by the Nazis are presented side-by-side with what Hitler and his cohorts preferred. "What you also find is that a lot of great artists worked under totalitarian regimes,"



Master images: A visitor to the exhibition in the Unter den Linden examines an outsize bust of the writer Maxim Gorky, considered the founder of the doctrine of socialist realism; in the background, Stalin looks on. *Photograph: AP*

says Mr Hughes. It is not the cultural experience, however, that will be drawing Germans in their thousands to the exhibits. The message that Germany was not alone in worshipping a warped sense of values is a welcome one to its people. The poignant choice of Berlin as the venue is deliberate and its importance underlined by the presence of Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the opening ceremony.

In a speech that might again cause afront across the Channel, Mr Kohl repeated his view that the evils of the past could only be banished in a united Europe that has been rid of ancient enmities. "The House of Europe has many foundations," he said. "For me, the decisive element is that we want to live together in the 21st century in peace and liberty, so that we may never relapse into a time of barbarism."

Mr Filatov said that Mr Yeltsin's ratings should go over the 35-40 per cent mark this week, giving him a comfortable first-round victory but not enough to win outright. But 20-25 per cent of the electorate were still undecided. Three recent polls suggested that this group is shrinking, and gave Mr Yeltsin between 34.5 and 37 per cent, eight points or more ahead of Mr Zyuganov, with between 26 and 15.9 per cent.

But the Yeltsin camp's figures also suggested some other trends afoot: Mr Zhirinovsky, who stunned the world when his party came second in December but seems since to have disintegrated, is making a last-minute rally. The liberal economist Mr Grigory Yavlinsky has moved ahead of Mr Yeltsin in Kaliningrad. And General Alexander Lebed is moving upwards slightly.

Yesterday the President's handlers were being careful not to seem too complacent, despite the up-beat mood of their boss. They were busy stoking up an old story that the Communist party has set up armed formations ready to go into action if the elections do not go their way. To counter this, the streets will be flooded with three times as many police as usual - almost as many as the number of observers from the two main rival camps who plan to descend on the 96,000 voting stations to check that their enemies do not cheat. If nothing else it will be an eventful, and rather crowded, day.

Bullish Yeltsin targets Communist voters' country

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin, riding high on the strength of flattering polls, scored a double-barrelled success yesterday. His spin doctors flourished evidence that the President is now ahead in his fight for re-election in some of the most sought-after, voter-rich territory in Russia. And a crucial agreement was signed in Chechnya.

Under the document, the Russians have agreed to withdraw their troops from the war-tattered republic by the end of August in return for the disarmament of the Chechen fighters - a deal which marks another crucial step towards Mr Yeltsin's promise: to end the conflict before election day on Sunday.

The move came as the President's now almost-triumphant bandwagon rumbled into the southern city of Rostov-on-Don.

As examples of these areas, Mr Filatov, a former chief of staff to the President, told the

Independent that they were hoping to win the Volgograd, Nizhny Novgorod, and Perm regions; the Krasnoyarsk and Primorsky territories and the Bashkortostan Republic - despite past Communist successes in these areas. Each contains a healthy parcel of voters - of around 1 million or more, based on last year's turn-out.

The science of election information gathering is almost as unsophisticated in Russia as its fledgling democracy, and the President's strategists are as prone to being partisan as anyone else operating in the fevered political cauldron. But their figures may offer clues to the centres that the President is likely to target as the race gathers momentum towards an almost certain run-off in July.

Among key battle grounds, according to Mr Filatov, are the north Caucasus; central Russia, including the ancient city of Vladimir, 200 miles east of Moscow; and the central "black earth" country, which includes Lipetsk in what is also seen as "red belt", or Communist territory.

Mr Filatov said that Mr Yeltsin's ratings should go over the 35-40 per cent mark this week, giving him a comfortable first-round victory but not enough to win outright. But 20-25 per cent of the electorate were still undecided. Three recent polls suggested that this group is shrinking, and gave Mr Yeltsin between 34.5 and 37 per cent, eight points or more ahead of Mr Zyuganov, with between 26 and 15.9 per cent.

But the Yeltsin camp's figures also suggested some other trends afoot: Mr Zhirinovsky, who stunned the world when his party came second in December but seems since to have disintegrated, is making a last-minute rally. The liberal economist Mr Grigory Yavlinsky has moved ahead of Mr Yeltsin in Kaliningrad. And General Alexander Lebed is moving upwards slightly.

Yesterday the President's handlers were being careful not to seem too complacent, despite the up-beat mood of their boss. They were busy stoking up an old story that the Communist party has set up armed formations ready to go into action if the elections do not go their way. To counter this, the streets will be flooded with three times as many police as usual - almost as many as the number of observers from the two main rival camps who plan to descend on the 96,000 voting stations to check that their enemies do not cheat. If nothing else it will be an eventful, and rather crowded, day.

Like you, Alistair saw an advert in the paper claiming that Midland could lower his household insurance. Alistair's got some quite expensive furniture and his insurance premiums had been fairly hefty, so he felt that any saving would be welcome. He rang us on 0800 277 377, was given a free quotation, double-checked the policy document (which is available on request) and was pleasantly surprised. Maybe you would be, too.

YELTSIN'S WISH LIST

Meet
Alistair.
Alistair saved himself
£10 a month by changing to
Midland home insurance.

He did it by calling DIRECT
0800 277 377
MIDLAND
The Listening Bank
Member HSBC Group



international

Clinton seeks to put a squeeze on Burma

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington
RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

The US has sent two senior diplomats to Asia to work out a strategy for putting pressure on the Burmese military regime to stop its persecution of the opposition movement, led by the dissident and Nobel Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi. Their visit is aimed at heading off pressure in Congress for tougher action - including sanctions.

The despatch of Ambassadors William Brown and Stanley Roth follows the adoption by Rangoon of laws which prohibit any attempt to draw up a rival constitution for a democratic movement. This would in effect muzzle Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party (NLD) which has held large rallies outside her house in recent weeks.

The dissident leader, said a State Department spokesman, "has a right, under international law and any reasonable standard of decency, to speak out about conditions in her own country." Washington is also demanding the release of more than 100 NLD activists still in detention.

Britain also expressed concern that around 30 opponents of the military regime remained in detention. "We are also concerned by reports that some have been charged and may be put on trial behind closed doors, including one of Aung San Suu Kyi's close personal aides, U Win Hein," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

The Clinton administration, which has become increasingly outspoken of late about human rights abuses and the suppression of dissent in Burma, hopes its move will prod the military junta into some form of dialogue with the opposition. But Washington is also contending with pressure from Congress for more radical action that - as in the case of Iran and Cuba - could merely provoke a split with its allies.

On Capitol Hill, a bipartisan Bill has been tabled that would bar US investment in Burma entirely, instead of the more gradual reduction in trade and diplomatic contacts hitherto pursued by the administration.

The State Department is opposed to additional mandatory sanctions, arguing that the US needs to retain the ability to respond to events in Burma. Washington is infuriated by the failure of the Burmese junta to crack down on narcotics trafficking, but must keep an eye on major US economic investments in the country. The Unocal energy company has a major stake in a \$1bn offshore gas project which provides human

resources for the opposition. But

Congressional sanctions force Unocal to pull out or foreign companies would simply move in. Unocal's president, John Imle, said recently.

The two US envoys yesterday began their whistle-stop tour of east Asia in Tokyo, where they met the Japanese foreign minister, Yukio Hatoyama. Japan's support will be vital to Washington. Japanese grant aid and technical co-operation to Burma amounted to \$134m in 1994 - more than twice the 1993 total. Many of the biggest names in Japanese business and finance, including C. Itoh, Sumitomo, Mitsui, Fuji Bank and Mitsubishi, have offices in Rangoon, and several others have plans to follow suit.

But yesterday's meeting seemed to produce little. Japan and the United States can join forces on the Burma question, because we share the same

concerns and goals even if we differ slightly on concrete measures," a Japanese foreign ministry official quoted Mr Hatoyama as saying.

And if past form is anything to go by, then Burma will be unlikely to receive much more than a brisk kicking-off from Tokyo. Having extended help to a country, Tokyo has in the past proved reluctant to withdraw it, even after blatant human rights violations. After the Tiamannen

Square massacre, Japan reluctantly joined its allies in freezing aid packages to China, but took the lead in re-establishing aid a few years later. Mr Brown and Mr Roth were scheduled to fly on to the Philippines yes-

terday, and later to visit Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. But in Burma, new billboards denouncing Aung San Suu Kyi appeared, saying she was a foreigner's stooge who should be crushed.



Photograph: Michael Nagasaka/Reuters

US deserted Vietnamese commandos

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

Newly declassified documents detail how the US military

washed its hands of several hundred Vietnamese commandos it sent on abortive sabotage missions in the early years of the Vietnam War. The documents, which the Pentagon fought to keep secret, show that the US literally scratched the names of the men from its payroll lists, stopping payments to families despite evidence showing many were alive in North Vietnamese prisons.

Senator John Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, said this week his country should

now pay what it owed to nearly 300 surviving commandos. They

have brought a law suit seeking

back pay of just \$2,000 (£1,300)

a year, without interest, from the

mid-1960s. "It's the wrong thing

to deny them the honour they

deserve," Senator Kerry said.

"This is an important matter of

both conscience and common

sense for the country. We paid

our prisoners, and these men

were working for us."

The release of the docu-

ments caps a long struggle by

the Vietnamese and their

American supporters to force

the US government to accept

them as living proof of Oplan

34-Alpha, a covert operation

launched in 1961. Most of the

men now live in the US. But

lawyers defending the law suit

for the Pentagon insisted as late

as last week that secret contracts

for covert operations are un-

enforceable, based on an 1875

Supreme Court ruling which de-

clares back pay to a spy in the

American Civil War.

Senator Kerry said he would

seek bipartisan support to find

£11m in the US defense budget

to meet the commandos' claims.

"Somewhere out there, there's

a golf course that can be sacri-

ficed for principle," he said.

Oplan 34-A was initiated by

William Colby, then the CIA's

Saigon station chief, who later

rose to be the agency's director

and died earlier this year. Viet-

namese who had fled the

communist North were trained in

espionage and sabotage and

sent back. A secret report on the

list of about 60 who were once

declared dead. "Widows" re-

ceive death benefits of as lit-

tle as \$200.

As late as 1995, the US Im-

migration and Naturalisation

Service tried to block refugee

status for a group of more than

50 of the commandos, who

were tortured, served long jail

sentences, and lived as parishes

in Vietnam after their release.

Nguyen Van Ke was

parachuted into North Vietnam

in 1964. He was listed in De-

fence Department records as

captured soon after landing.

Now aged 63, he lives like many

of the refugees in Southern

California. He told the Los

Angeles Times of 13 years in a

Vietnamese jail including tor-

ture, and bouts of solitary con-

finement. He was reunited with

his family on his release in 1977

but managed to reach the US

only two months ago. "I gave my

life for the operation," he said.

"Why did America forget us?"

Accident victim?

Have you had an accident in the last 3 years? Was someone else at fault? Find out free about claiming compensation. "No Win - No Legal Fees" often available.

Freephone 0800 444240 (day and night)

National Accident Helpline

A UK network of accident solicitors. 142, 2 Cannon St, London EC4N 6AA

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE UP TO 50% or

e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured

Premium Only £154.00

LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas

Tel: 0181 546 1102 NOW!

Or phone your nearest branch at the local rate on:

0345 123111

Hill House Hammond

Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

**Tetley Teabags 160s £2.99
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Nescafe Gold Blend 200g £4.25
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Hellmann's Mayonnaise 400g £1.25
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Sainsbury's UHT Virtually Fat Free Milk 1 litre 49p
BUY 3 GET 4TH FREE**

**Allinson Wholemeal Bread 800g 59p 49p SAVE 12p
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Klo-Ora 1 litre 85p
BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE**

**Carlsberg Lager 12 x 400ml Pack £9.49 £7.99
SAVE £1.50**

**Boddingtons Draught Bitter 12 x 400ml Pack £12.99 £9.99
SAVE £3**

**Sainsbury's Frozen Garden Peas 1.816kg £2.29 £1.79
SAVE 50p**

**Andrex Toilet Tissue 12 rolls
FOR THE PRICE OF 9
BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE**

**Sainsbury's Low Fat Yogurt 4 x 150g Pack £1.09 81p
4 POTS FOR THE PRICE OF 3
BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE**

**Unilever Butter 500g £1.09 89p
SAVE 20p**

**Heinz Speciality Pickles 67p
BUY 1 GET 1FREE**

**Sainsbury's Pencils Bigate Pastel 1kg 99p 69p
SAVE 30p**

**KP Skips x10 £1.59
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Nestle Tip Top 3x400g Pack SPECIAL PURCHASE 99p
BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE**

**Winalot Prime 800g 42p 69p
SAVE 13p**

**Miller Fruity/Crunch Corner 40g 32p
SAVE 8p**

**Sainsbury's Pink Salmon 418g 95p 75p
SAVE 20p**



Snickers/Mars
Snack Size x10 £1.57
Buy any 2 get 3rd free

Sainsbury's. Special food at everyday prices.

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL 22 JUNE 1996. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SUPERCENTRES. MERCHANDISE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES ARE AVAILABLE AT LARGER BRANCHES ONLY. THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

لهم اعلم

Only a classic Eurocompromise can save us

The great British beef war of 1996 has, predictably, turned into a messy British embarrassment. The implication of the tough talking by other European ministers in Luxembourg yesterday is that their governments are preparing to adopt a policy of non-cooperation with John Major. Even the Dutch put their clogs into Malcolm Rifkind at yesterday's meeting of EU foreign ministers. When you've made the civil Dutch angry, you can be sure you are in real trouble. How can anyone, apart from the most unreconstructed little Englanders, take pleasure in this? The whole sorry episode can only go on damaging this country's true interests in Europe.

However, it was also the Dutch Foreign Minister, Hans Van Mierlo, who came up with a sensible proposal that might yet provide Mr Major with an escape route, if he is willing, or able, to take it. The proposal has a familiar logic (ask Gerry Adams). In essence, the Dutch said, an outline deal may still be possible, but not before the British government announces a ceasefire.

The European Commission would propose a framework, or statement of intent, for the step-by-step lifting of the beef export ban over several years; Britain would end its blocking tactics; and then member governments would discuss and, hopefully, agree the Commission plan. This would involve something of a public climb-down for the

Government. But it could also declare something of a victory. If the whole process could be speeded up so it took place over a couple of days, or even one afternoon, it should be possible for Mr Major to sign up.

It is time for the Government to cut its losses. The entire misbegotten campaign was based on the view that Continental don't like it up 'em; bully them a bit and they'll cave in. This has proved hopelessly wrong. Britain's technical case against the beef ban was good. Our political case was poor, even selfish.

The Government's announcement in March that BSE could lead to a similar disease in humans caused consumer panic across the Continent and sent beef markets into free fall. Even now, with the British domestic beef trade almost back to normal, German and French sales of non-British beef remain one third below last year's levels. In other words, this is a real political and domestic issue for our partners, not some arcane Euro dispute over money or principle.

In domestic political terms, standing up to British blocking tactics and refusing any further lifting of the beef ban is the painless thing for Continental governments to do. There is no big constituency in Germany crying out for an obscure and technical EU anti-fraud measure (however sensible). There is a big constituency which is terrified of British beef (rightly or wrongly).

At the same time, there is genuine fury and bafflement in Europe that Britain should try to bludgeon agreement on such a complex issue, where there are rights and wrongs on both sides. Something rather ugly, something personal, is creeping into the dispute. There appears to be a growing determination on the Continent to teach Mr Major a lesson. This is as there was a grudging recognition that Mrs Thatcher had a case. Second, her tactics were better chosen. She selected her battlegrounds more carefully and took hostage large, inanimate issues – issues which other European governments wanted to resolve, but which mattered little to public opinion. Third, the remote prospect of British Labour government was, at that time, even more unappealing to our partners than Mrs Thatcher. They knew they had to deal with the iron lady, or no one.

Throughout the 1980s, Mrs Thatcher had a series of running battles with our EU partners over farm policy reform and the level of UK contributions.

Relations became pretty difficult but never as desperate as this. Why? First,

not (yet) represent a turning away from Britain. It does represent a turning away from John Major. Until a few weeks ago, Continental politicians, if asked whether they were holding their breath for the coming of Tony Blair, would reply politely: "No. We are looking forward to the British election because we feel that whatever government emerges – Tory or Labour – would be freer to deal with Europe more constructively."

The beef war has changed all that. Every member state will do it; but they are now damned if they are going to hand Mr Major the kind of beef triumph which could be electorally beneficial. Their tactics may also now be faulty. A continuing, or escalating, crisis over several months will, in any case, result in an election in a blaze of Union flags. If the Tories were to win such an election, it is possible to imagine a series of worsening show-downs with Europe leading to British marginalisation, even withdrawal. Mr Santer's decision to raise this issue is premature, and impolitic, but such fears are no longer entirely absurd.

So what now? The Government is evidently uncomfortable with its own campaign. It hoped its decision to release a couple of hostages would help the atmosphere in Luxembourg yesterday. It just made the whole thing look siller. Why allow trade negotiations with Algeria but block criticism of Indonesia's behaviour in East Timor? What has any of it got to do with beef?

The next 10 days up to the Florence summit are critical. A slender hope still exists that something like a classic Eurocompromise can be found. Mr Major should explore the possibilities of the Dutch settlement. He has raised emotions so high that any compromise is bound to be lambasted by the Eurosceptics and a section of the Europhobic press. But it is time for the remaining Euro-sensible members of the Government to insist that sanity prevails.

Shape up, guys

Step by step, men are learning to discuss their feelings with wives and lovers, show love for their children – even to listen more than they talk. All in all, they are learning to become more human – or at least more like women, which is nearly the same thing. But a sensible view of their physical well-being seems beyond them, poor mutes.

Eight out of 10 readers of *Men's Health* magazine admitted to health worries but they seem unable to talk to their GPs. Whatever the reason, they should get down to the business of staying well. Dodging doctors ends in tears, ruined relationships and even death. Ailing men should spare a thought for the women who will end up nursing them (or missing them), and get fit.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let teachers get on with their job

Sir: Your leading article "A theme for Labour's school song" (8 June) hits at least one nail on the head when it distinguishes between education and education policy.

As a now retired, professional, who has taught in three types of schools (grammar, technical and comprehensive) and in teacher education, I have been amazed at the confusion in the press between these two concepts. The overwhelming majority of teachers with whom I have come into contact treat the job of teaching pragmatically. What matters to them in teaching any subject is what "works", based on their experience in schools. They will accept education policy as giving general direction to their work, granted it does not interfere with their professional judgement of what works in their circumstances.

Here lies the rub. Too many so-called policy statements from the politicians have been concerned with such matters as how to teach reading, or whether classes should be taught in groups, and so on. Let teachers decide this for themselves based on their collective experiences and on whatever evidence research provides.

Professor NORMAN GRAVES
Epsom, Surrey

Sir: Following Tony Blair's announcement on Labour's commitment to dismantling mixedability education we are writing to condemn this amazing attack on the key teaching strategy for raising achievement for all pupils.

Mixed ability has nothing to do with political correctness or utopian dreaming. It is the foundation for the proven success of the comprehensive system. More pupils leave school today with qualifications than ever did under the old systems. Illiteracy levels have gone down as the comprehensive system has developed. The comprehensive system developed because of the failures of these past systems, which grouped pupils on the basis of flawed tests and flawed philosophies. Mixed ability teaching challenged selection, streaming and setting strategies which automatically led to examination failure for the majority of school leavers. Mixed ability teaching is based on a real understanding of how children learn.

Mr Blair's announcement came as no surprise. The actions of senior members of the Labour Party in sending their children to selective and grant-maintained schools spoke volumes. We have no intention of sitting back and allowing a Labour government to take us back to a system that meant mainly working-class children were condemned to failure.

H. VYNNE WILLIAMS
and 21 other trade union members
Croydon School
London SE4

Sir: Oh, come on. Just who are you trying to kid by marking it as an exclusive ("Teaching trainees have worst A-levels", 10 June)? I did my A-levels in 1971 and it was widely known then that if one failed to get the grades for university or polytechnic one could always get into teacher training college. The teaching profession was seen as the fall-back option. The sad thing is that nothing has changed since then. There is only one way for this to change. The Government must stop constantly meddling with education



Stormont Castle

and, along with local authorities and school governors, they must start treating and paying teachers as the professionals they are.

The Rev MIKE BOSSINGHAM
Maidenhead, Berkshire

Sir: Your article on university entry requirements (10 June) quotes the chief executive of UCAS as saying: "Well, we know performance at A-level is a very poor predictor of performance at degree level." I have read elsewhere that interviewing is an equally unreliable predictor of future achievement. So can anyone tell me why our bastions of learning rely so heavily on just these two methods to select their chosen few?

LEN SALEM
London W5

Cradles of fanaticism

Sir: The Rev Peter Hatton (letter, 8 June) claims that "this century's bloodiest mass murderers have not been believers".

Mao Tse-tung and Pol Pot were not believers in religion but were equally fanatical believers in an ideology partly derived from Judeo-Christian tradition. Hitler was brought up as a Catholic and remained a believer in God and his system was a parody of medieval Christianity. Stalin was trained as an Orthodox priest and his system was a parody of tsarist Russia.

The historical context is crucial. Just as Nazi anti-Semitism derived from the long tradition of Christian anti-Semitism, European imperialism derived from the long tradition of Christian evangelicism. The conquerors and colonisers held a sword in one hand,

and a Bible in the other. It is no coincidence that the first atom bombs were used by white Christians against non-white non-Christians.

The danger is irrational belief of any kind and the remedy is liberalism and rationalism.

NICOLAS WALTER
Rationalist Press Association
London N1

Rail privatisation starts to work

Sir: I must set the record straight regarding comments attributed to me by Christian Wolmar ("Rail privatisation will never benefit users", 20 May).

Rail privatisation is still in its early stages, so it is not surprising that new benefits for passengers are not yet in evidence. Many improvements which we have seen over the last two years are the result of decisions taken by Train Operating Companies still under BR management.

There is, however, now real momentum in the privatisation process and tangible improvements are coming through to the benefit of passengers as a result of the new industry structure. We want passengers to benefit from the opportunities which the new arrangements bring; promises must be realised.

My emphasis was "no benefits yet", certainly not "no benefits ever".

DAVID BERTRAM
Chairman
Rail Users' Consultative Committee
London EC2

Cathedral vs rubber factory

Sir: I was interested – as everyone involved with the conservation of our heritage should be – in Jonathan Glancey's comments on the consultation document *Protecting Our Heritage* (28 May).

He is a strong advocate of the need to respect modern architecture and, of course, he is right, always providing there is a sense of proportion.

"Any of us can say," he writes, "Oh yes, we must protect Peterborough Cathedral." We can say it, yes; but when faced with an incontrovertible and urgent need for over £1m to achieve it, rather

providing there is a sense of proportion.

"Any of us can say," he writes, "Oh yes, we must protect Peterborough Cathedral." We can say it, yes; but when faced with an incontrovertible and urgent need for over £1m to achieve it, rather

providing there is a sense of proportion.

This is one of the two greatest Norman churches in Europe, Durham surely being the other. The immense painted oak ceiling in the nave is unique. It was completed in 1120 and is deteriorating dangerously. We need £2m to save that alone and that is but one of the seven essential rescue operations which we can only hope to complete given a generous and imaginative response from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Henry VIII described Peterborough as "the goodliest monument in all Christendom". Its claims upon the Heritage Fund must surely weigh against even the most magnificent rubber factory.

SIR STEPHEN HASTINGS
Chairman
Peterborough Cathedral Trust
London SE4

Let Britain vote on Ulster union

Sir: After the most recent Unionist electoral triumph, a thought occurred. The union is the most contentious issue in Northern Ireland and everyone in the province is presumed to have a strong opinion on it. Yet it is rarely suggested that the citizens of Britain, the other and far larger partner in the union, might have opinions as well. They will never be asked for them at a general election, and a referendum is ruled out. Supposing it turned out that the majority wished to rid themselves of the union, would Dr Paisley and Mr Trimble, so outspokenly committed to the democratic process, take note?

DR ERIC ADAMS
Hounslow, Middlesex

</div

analysis

John Birt: the devil and the BBC

Every move he makes outrages the traditionalists. Last week's management restructuring brought more protests. But **Mathew Horsman** argues he is not quite the demon he seems

Broadcasting's traditionalists – and they are a multitude – see John Birt, activist Director-General of the BBC, as the Antichrist, the devil himself, the man of mission statements but no mission, the architect of the mighty Beeb's ruin, its fall from Reithian grace.

He stands accused of destroying the soul of the nation's public service broadcaster: of downgrading its commitment to radio; of squandering its 75-year tradition of engineering excellence by proposing to sell off BBC Transmission; of replacing real, honest-to-goodness artists with accountants.

Can it be true? Can the Corporation have fallen into the hands of a cabal of small-minded, market-driven "suits", whose sole purpose is to destroy the BBC because it represents yet another producer monopoly to be sorted out like schools, hospitals and the unions.

What self-styled lover of culture, quality broadcasting and radio programming of the highest order can even begin to disagree with the complaints of the tireless defenders of the BBC's heritage?

Who would not concede that the future of BBC Radio is threatened by the announcement last week of the end of its independent status within the Corporation? Who is not worried about the future of the World Service (English-language), already emasculated by cuts and now to suffer the indignity of answering to a new, "streamlined" management called BBC Production?

Well before last week's radical management restructuring, which will see scheduling and commissioning separated from production for the first time, Mr Birt was already demonised within the organisation as the architect of the much-maligned "producer choice", and the father of 5,000 cuts (being the number of jobs pruned since he arrived in 1992). Producer choice, that quintessentially Birtian innovation, comes in for particular criticism. By allowing producers to choose between internal and external production teams to make programmes, the organisation was meant to be made more effi-



John Birt's way is not the only path forward, but in the new broadcasting environment, he is hardly alone.

cient. The system required, for the first time, an internal market: prices for the trade of goods and services within the Corporation had to be accounted for properly. Just like the NHS. God help us.

Last week's changes are a second movement on roughly the same theme. Henceforth, BBC Broadcast will be responsible for scheduling and commissioning, while BBC Production makes the programmes. This is meant to save the BBC, to safeguard quality in a multi-channel environment.

And of course the impulse is heavily commercial. The management structure henceforth will look suspiciously like that of Channel 4 and the ITV Network Centre, with a few key mandarins to decide what will go out

over the airwaves. This, in Birt's view, makes the Corporation a "broadcasting powerhouse", ready to take on the world.

The two existing controllers, Alan Yentob at BBC1 and Michael Jackson at BBC2 will see their jobs mutate. Will Wyatt, currently head of BBC Broadcast, under him, Jackson is likely to become Director of Television. Yentob, for his part, is slated to become director of programming at BBC Production, in a move that may not suit him quite so well as his current, central role in the popular BBC1.

The news and current affairs side of radio is also in line for major changes – not least a wholesale move from Broadcasting House to White City, in west London (although contrary to the *Independent*'s report last week, the rest of the radio operations, including the entertainment programmes, will stay at BH).

The traditionalists hate these changes just as much as they loathed "producer choice". They are just a step towards a "virtual" corporation which commissions and schedules programming but has no real hand in making it. A step, then, towards the complete destruc-

tion of the integrated BBC that has been the envy of the world.

So much for the doomsayers' view. To paraphrase *1066 and All That*, the traditionalists are "romantic but wrong", while the Birtians are "right but ready".

For there are uncomfortable truths facing the in a world so quickly transforming itself that standing still is hardly an option. Traditionalists owe it to themselves, if they really want to "save the BBC", to recognise the new broadcasting environment.

The Americans are ready with several years' worth of niche programming experience, offering specialist Sci-Fi stuff for the *Star Trek* set, soft-core sex for the evening shift, 24-hour news, 24-hour weather, even "ambient imagery" – scenes of flickering fireplaces or tranquil lakeside scenes, to supplement the colour schemes of the yuppiest of sitting rooms.

The BBC must innovate, or it will die. That is the conclusion even of old hands such as Ian Hargreaves, former editor of the *Independent* and now editor of the *New Statesman*. Birt, the devil himself, warns that the BBC must not sit still, stroking its grey beard, as all around it reacts to the new environment.

Its success will be judged not against its enviable history but against its ability to survive in the future. That is why John Birt has pushed through his massive reform package. That is why there needs to be another mammoth management shake-up.

Much of what Birt is doing is driven by one, inescapable truth. A BBC that is but one broadcaster among many does

control pad. John Birt's BBC is not going to play dead.

To respond to the new competitive environment, the organisation needs a modern management structure. It needs to be able to commission the very best programming for radio and television, destined for home and abroad. It needs to make the best use it can of its vaunted news-gathering ability, and if that means merging radio and TV news, then so be it.

The BBC must innovate, or it will die. That is the conclusion even of old hands such as Ian Hargreaves, former editor of the *Independent* and now editor of the *New Statesman*. Birt, the devil himself, warns that the BBC must not sit still, stroking its grey beard, as all around it reacts to the new environment.

Its success will be judged not against its enviable history but against its ability to survive in the future. That is why John Birt has pushed through his massive reform package. That is why there needs to be another mammoth management shake-up.

Much of what Birt is doing is driven by one, inescapable truth. A BBC that is but one broadcaster among many does

not have a permanent claim on the licence fee. Right now, the Beeb takes in £1.8bn from licence fee payers, and another £300m in revenues from its commercial operations, which include BBC World and BBC Prime, its two international television services.

Can the licence fee be sustained if domestic audience share starts to decline precipitously? The Corporation's own internal estimates suggest that the mainstream broadcasters (roughly, BBC, ITV and Channel 4) will see their share of total television audience drop to perhaps 65 or 70 per cent within 10 years, compared to more than 90 per cent today. Will TV and radio customers continue to support it if that drop occurs?

Birt insists that the Beeb has a bright future as a public service broadcaster, but only if it grasps the digital future with both hands, remakes its corporate structure and competes aggressively with rivals. A hidebound, old-fashioned organisation can do none of these things, and would merely fade into obscurity.

Even with Birt's brave new management structure, the odds must be against the survival of a universal, compulsory licence fee. The BBC will have to compete for viewers just as any broadcaster must. A farsighted government might concede the point and allow the Corporation to enter the private sector with honour, competing for the support of customers day by day. The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, has suggested the marriage of BT and the BBC, the country's best carrier and the its best content provider.

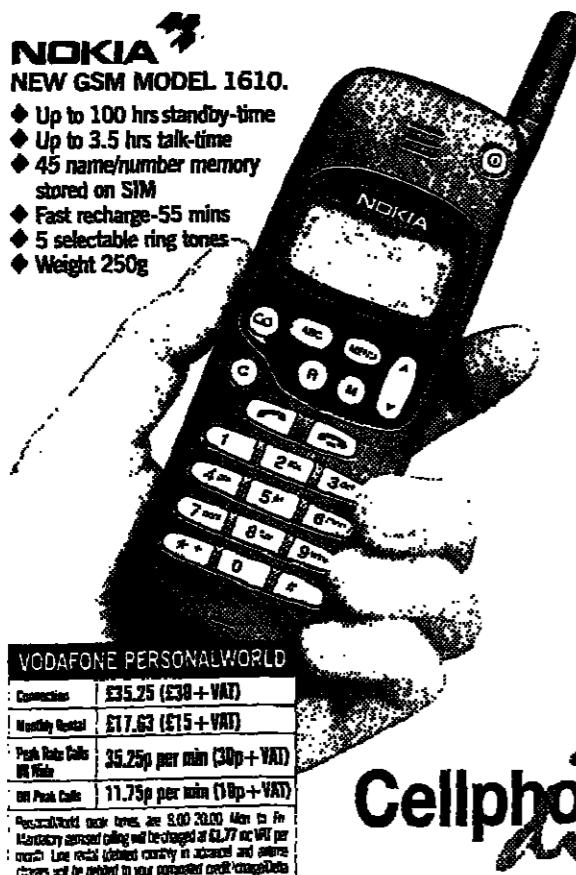
Whatever the outcome, reforms look inevitable. One might not like the specifics – must radio be so sidelined? Must there be a downgrading of production next to scheduling and commissioning? Does it really make sense to merge radio and TV news? – but the impulse is clearly right. If we are to have an open broadcasting environment, which even Labour seems to support, then we must have a reforming, mutating BBC.

It is perhaps unfortunate that Birt has become just a target of venom, such a hated destroyer of all that is good. He might be less maligned were he graced with a more attractive personality – less aloof, less of a suit (even if Armani in provenance). But we ought not to slay the messenger just because we do not like the message. If we are to have a digital revolution (and can we stop it?) then we must have a reformed BBC. If we are to save anything of the BBC we love (the quality, the variety, the reputation, the reliability), we must accept change.

Birt is not the only way forward, but it is the only realistic strategy on offer so far. So is John Birt the devil? Hardly.

Labour

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!



ORDER NOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 4PM

PLEASE HAVE THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL. AND QUOTE REF:4178. (Sorry we are unable to accept switch cards).

Offer subject to status and a standard account contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 299522.

All the ingredients for a best-seller

Have you ever felt you could write a cookery book? At least, have you ever felt that the way you cook was at least as good as the way they cook in cookery books? Or to put it another way, did you ever feel that if Delia Smith could be a millionaire you could at least be a hundredaire? Have you noticed that nobody knows the difference between "cookery book" and "cook book"?

Do you sometimes feel that given guidance through the thickets of cookery writing, you could end up famous enough and rich enough to leave your husband and have a good time at last?

Pear not!

Today we have an expert to guide you through these problem areas!

Yes, Crispin Foliat is here to answer all your questions about that vital question: "How do I get to write a cookery best-seller and the quicker the better?"

Crispin Foliat writes: No problem. First of all, you get a good name...

What's a good name?

Crispin Foliat writes: A good name, for a cookery writer, is one that half suggests some exotic dish and half suggests an exquisite rural village. Crispin Foliat, for instance. In my case, I sound halfway between "cookery book" and "crispy chilton".

Hmm. Any other examples?

Crispin Foliat writes: Yes. Glynn Christian. Gary Rhodes. Andre Simon. Rick Stein. Robert Carrier...

Oh, come on! They don't sound remotely like an English village OR an exotic dish!

Crispin Foliat writes: I didn't say an English village. I said like a village. It could be a French village. Andre Simon sounds like a French place name. Boulestin did, too. So does Carrier. Mark you, the fashion for having cookery writers who sounded like French people has gone

tones not only of Rick's Bar, but of rickey, that half-forgotten cocktail. You've heard of gin rickies?

Yes, but look, I think we're missing the point here. I want to know how to write a best-selling cook book, and my name is really quite irrelevant. Just get on with it, would you?

Crispin Foliat writes: Very good, very good! I think you may have the necessary touchiness.

What necessary touchiness?

Crispin Foliat writes: To be a TV superchef. Everyone has to have a gimmick to be a TV superchef. It could be touchiness. It could just be something you held in your hand. Ken Hom had his wok. Keith Floyd had a glass of red wine. But whatever it is, you have to have your TV series before you sell really serious quantities of books.

Sometimes you have a TV series with no book, which is a tragedy...

I am sorry, I don't quite understand that.

Crispin Foliat writes: No. That should do it.

Ambushers lie in wait as Major enters the pass

The floor of the House of Commons may have lost its supremacy over many aspects of public life – judicial, diplomatic, and as the place for national argument – but it retains absolute supremacy in one key area there, and there alone, are struggling governments killed off. That is not an interesting observation. But, as John Major's administration twitches and jerks its way across the front pages, it is an essential one.

On all sides, this seems a government that rests on powder-fragile foundations. At Stormont, the ultimate guarantors of Major's majority, the Ulster Unionists, are being angrily confronted by a table they don't want to sit around. The politics of the next few weeks of Northern Irish life will be, to put it mildly, turbulent and impatient; Mr Major has commented privately that he may be the first British premier to be ousted by the Irish question since William Gladstone.

Meanwhile, at Luxembourg and Brussels, and other places where politics has been generally placid and patient, British ministers are being harangued by continental politicians who have had enough. The European Union is an institution founded upon the politics of

Tonight's vote on Bill Cash's referendum Bill could bring a sleepy House of Commons to life

compromise and wince. Without second-bests and weary handshakes, it would not exist at all. Yet Britain has achieved the hitherto-unthinkable: we have united every other country in an uncompromising mood against us. In that, as in some of his recent privatisations, Mr Major has comprehensively out-thatched Margaret Thatcher.

In this pass, he can go forward or he can retreat. If he carries on with his campaign, voting many more innocent and useful EU initiatives, then he will confirm the growing continental view that he is not worth doing business with. The big players are now at least half-committed to sowing the Major government out, giving it no political help at all, and waiting for Tony Blair. The Prime Minister is dangerously close to becoming friendless in the EU, in a way Lady Thatcher never quite was.

Certainly, thus far, the veto-barrage has produced greater stubbornness in Paris and Bonn, not less.

This will make the Government vulnerable, at least in theory, to further defections from the Tory left – to another few Howarths or Nicholsons. Having spoken to some of the

Europhiles in recent days, I can confirm that they are depressed. (And yet, aren't they always, these days?) For to retreat would probably be even more dangerous for Major. Malcolm Rifkind has already allowed through three exceptions to the vetoes. This implies that, if the issues are important enough, other exceptions will follow. Once they start, there is a small army of diplomats and other civil servants who will most eloquently make the case for yet more exceptions, and the grand attack will disintegrate.

If that happens, those political isolationists whose prejudices Messrs Rifkind and Major have been so busy whipping up will not forgive either of them. On balance, the possibility of a kamikaze parliamentary revolt by the right remains likelier than a revolt by the civilised, moist-palmed wets.

Today's vote on Bill Cash's referendum Bill will be a fascinating test of the ultimate strength of the Eurosceptic and anti-EU right – and the current weakness of the administration's internal authority. To put it crudely, many Conservative MPs now fear Sir James Goldsmith's

referendum Tories are privately expecting more than 100 supporters tonight. However, glossed, that would be a blow for Major, who is firmly opposed to a wide-ranging plebiscite.

If Ulster looms and storm clouds gather over Europe, then the domestic political weather pattern is as ominous for him too. The patter-patter of potential defectors has been audible for weeks. The Christian Democrats and literary George Walden has more or less had it with his gross and overly Saxon colleagues. The hooded-eyed conspiracist and right-winger Sir George Gardiner is in trouble with his association and still making dark threats. And, for light relief, Terry Dicks is threatening to go too, over the Stormont talk. After a decade of reporting politics based, above all, on the principle of never taking Mr Dicks seriously, one is reluctant to start now. Even so, the general impression of a fribble and flaking Conservative majority is hard to avoid.

Look at all that, and you would think that the Tories are likely to be out by October. If you were an Opposition politician, then you would certainly hope so. This may be a shallow, consumer-led recovery, of a predictable sort; but it is a real one. It would be extraordinary if it didn't start to show up in the polls. There are senior Whitehall people who feel that Tony Blair isn't home yet.

The same feeling has led to Mr Blair's office being harangued by Labour supporters who want to know why he hasn't brought down the Government already. From there, the response is tinged with world-weariness: "It's a simple matter of arithmetic. If there is a way to bring them down, we will find it and take it." One gets the impression that the Government's success in staving off defeat over the Scott report, despite Robin Cook's brilliantly forensic attack, has taken the edge off Labour's appetite for a vote-of-confidence showdown.

And, indeed, it is not so easy. Lord Callaghan is Labour's living reminder of how long a minority government can survive, by late-night strategems, the buying-off of minor parties, and sheer collective willpower. As he has said himself, Callaghan was Prime Minister when Labour's majority was lost as John

Stonehouse defected in 1976, setting himself up as the English National Party, before standing trial for theft and fraud. And Callaghan was still Prime Minister when Stonehouse was released from jail in 1979.

What kept Callaghan going, despite the crumbling of the Labour movement in the late Seventies, was the reluctance of the smaller parties to bring him down. Major is in a similar position. He could lose Walden, Dicks, Gardiner and a few more besides, and still struggle on – just so long as the Unionists stick by him. And they would be acting out of character if they threw away their rare and valuable leverage on the Commons before they had to.

Yet Labour should be hungrier and more aggressive in the Commons than they are. The place gives the impression of having gone half to sleep for the summer, which is very convenient for Mr Major and his colleagues. If they can make it to the end of next month, they can probably make it to the Budget; and if they can make it to the Budget, they can probably last until the early spring. And by then ... well, nine months is a very long time in politics. For those reasons, I expect a Labour ambush of some kind within weeks. But I also expect it to fail.

ANDREW MARR

The patter-patter of potential defectors has been audible for weeks

small Referendum Party more than they fear the government whips.

This may seem bizarre, but it is, in fact, quite rational. The whips can hector and report back to Downing Street; but they will not be there on election day, when Goldsmith's candidates might yet decide whether a chap can keep his seat until 2002. Partly as a result of this, the pro-

Look at all that, and you would think that the Tories are likely to be out by October. If you were an Opposition politician, then you

Paul Gascoigne celebrates England's goal against Switzerland last Saturday. But 90 minutes of real football is a bit much to expect of him

Photograph: Neal Simpson/Empics

England expects ... not a lot, really

England's footballers have been infected with lad culture: ironic, languid, detached. Fine in a TV studio, not so funny at Wembley ...

A footballing nation, traumatised by England's dismal display against Switzerland on Saturday, is seeking desperate remedies. I, of course, have the answer, but first let me consider one of the most apparently sensible solutions.

In the *Daily Mail*, Andrew Neil says we should abandon our four home international sides and play as Britain United. "It is", he writes, "the height of conceit to think that we are capable of international success when the best British players are split between four teams."

On the face of it, this makes perfect sense. The national divisions sustained by our international footballing identity are wildly anomalous. Individual states in the USA are more emotionally and practically independent of Washington than Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland are of London, and almost any country you care to name has equally or more profound regional distinctions. We are, to the rest of the world, the United Kingdom, a single, blended, eccentric and usually cantankerous unit. To play as four separate teams is merely one more symptom of our bone-headed, atavistic temperament. And, of course, from our own point of view, we are no good – surely it is far better, under the circumstances, to widen the soccer gene pool from which our ashen-faced managers can draw their teams.

The first problem with this is that it would damage us politically. Having four teams means

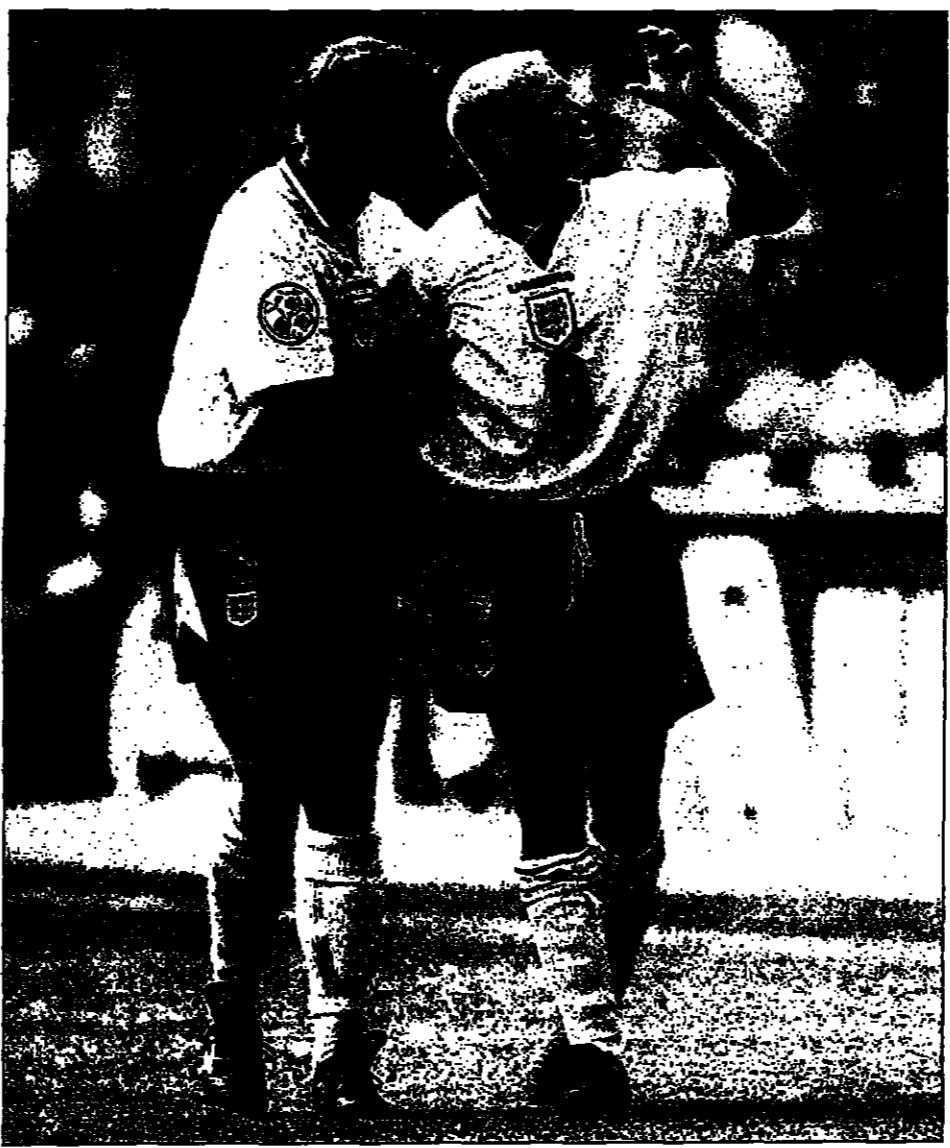
we have four votes on Fifa, the world football governing body, and this allows us, in theory at least, to steer the administration of the game in our direction. Fancy rule changes favouring hot-headed, hot-climate players can always be blocked.

The second problem is that, right now, it would not work. The only non-English player who would currently be selected for a Britain team is



Ryan Giggs, the mercurial, floppy-haired winger from Wales. And does anybody believe he alone is enough to make any difference – apart, of course, from increasing the number of teenage female fans? The sad truth is that Britain United may have looked a little more stylish – they could, let's face it, scarcely have looked less – against Switzerland, but they would still have limped off with a dismal draw. Admittedly, in the Sixties, any constitutional change would have been justified to bring George Best from the boondocks of the Northern Ireland team. But Best is not Best. Indeed, in a thousand years of football no nation can hope to produce his like again.

And so we come to my solu-



tion. This requires careful consideration of exactly what happened against Switzerland. Essentially, our fault was that we played for 45 minutes instead of 90. Not only did the whole team seem to grind to a halt after half time, but Terry Venables, that strange, awkward man, also found it necessary actually to "test" players to protect them from the hardship of playing the whole game.

Now let's contemplate the moment that Gazza left the field. He waved happily to the crowd as if saying: "Aren't I wonderful? But that's your lot."

The crowd waved back and cheered, humbly accepting that 30 minutes of Gazza was all they could reasonably expect. Plainly, they cannot hope for this man to knock back Hong Kong tequila – he did not, of course, trash the Caithay Pacific jumbo; that was done in a warm, collective spirit by the whole team – and play an entire game of ... what's it called? ... oh yes, football.

In picking Gazza, therefore, we are picking half a player; and, indeed, the clubs that have paid millions for his services must have been buying no more than 50 per cent of the whole man. This is pretty extraordinary and suggests a whole new way of doing business. I might, for example, agree to write columns for the *Independent* on the clear understanding that I would only use, say, 15 letters of the alphabet. Or John Major might agree to be Prime Minister on every other day – though perhaps he does that already.

On Saturday afternoon, something of the same spirit appeared to infect the whole England team. An entire match seemed just too much to expect from the poor dears. They were, quite simply, unfit – whether emotionally or physically I cannot say. I watched all the other weekend games and none of the other teams displayed anything like these post-interval symptoms of lassitude and exhaustion. They were all committed, fierce and fast; we were all detached, self-indulgent and languid.

The reason is, I think, irony. Irony is currently all over English sport like a cheap suit. Top of the charts is an iron-on song by those two ironic lads Baddiel and Skinner about football coming home after 30 years in which, presumably, it has been abroad. The accompanying video makes much of the fact that neither Baddiel nor Skinner can play soccer to save their lives. Plus, of course, these two host a television programme called *Fantasy Football*.

League in which the one consistent joke is that nobody is particularly good at the game itself.

Fantasy is the theme of all these newspaper games at the moment. We are invited to play pretend football or whatever from the comfort of our armchairs. The effect is to distance the real game, to remove the possibility of real commitment or heroism to a safe distance. Lad culture – of which all this is the clearest expression – certainly glorifies football, but it does so with a remote, ironic, Post-Modern chuckle. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that when the real England team takes to a real England pitch they behave as if they are surprised by the reality of it all – all that grass and stuff. Gazza and friends have started to think that football means tickling boxes, not kicking balls.

This is a hopeless state of affairs. Modern sport cannot be played ironically. Other countries demand heroism and a defence of national pride from their players. In the United States, successful sports coaches become moral shepherds to the nation. The Promise Keepers, the male fundamentalist Christian sect which is driving previously alienated urban men back to their homes and families, was started by a sports coach. In the United States, as in many other nations, sporting excellence is an expression and celebration of moral character.

Irony cannot prevail against this. The culture of Post-Modern laidey is no match for moral seriousness. Think of Gazza and then think of the basketball superstar Michael Jordan. It's a joke, right? Jordan is from another planet; Gazza is human, all too human. Okay, George Best could get drunk, have a haircut, open boutiques and still play like a god for 90 minutes. But he was a genius and Gazza is not. We cannot wait in ironic expectation of such stars.

The solution is to get serious now, preferably before Saturday comes. England expects ... but then, being England, she does not expect very much.



THE NEW FILM PROJECT from the makers of

BRUCE

Your chance to share in the next exciting chapter of British film history. In June of this year work is scheduled to start on *Macbeth*, the next major film from the makers of "The Bruce".

Made in association with Grampian Television, this is your opportunity to become involved in this exciting project. Interest bearing Debentures of £500 each are being offered in *Macbeth* plc.

Debenture holders are entitled to:

• Appear as an extra in the film. • A share of any net profit of the film.

• A ticket for the World Premiere. • Repayment of your capital with interest.

• A listing in the credits.

This is a unique chance to share in the world of film making from the inside. Don't delay as numbers are limited. *Macbeth* plc will publish a prospectus on 15th June.

To reserve your prospectus ring: 01789 292779

E-mail: 201350.1552@compuserve.com

Send to: *Macbeth* plc, 11 Central Chambers, Cooles Alley, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6QJ.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No: _____ Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

The making of *Macbeth* is a joint venture for the production of this short film between *Macbeth* plc and *Grampian* Television. *Macbeth* plc is a film to be produced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry an investment limit.

Labour thinks small to make a big impact

Power must be returned to the regions for us to compete in the global economy, says John Prescott

The Labour Party's constitution pledges us to strive for a dynamic economy in which decisions are taken as far as practicable by the communities they affect, and where wealth, power and opportunity is in the hands of the many, not the few". The aim of decentralising power and regenerating our local communities forms an integral part of our strategy for achieving a stakeholding society in Britain. We believe this will bring more accountability and more effectiveness.

Today we receive the impressive and substantial report of the independent Regional Policy Commission, chaired by Bruce Millan, the former European Commissioner for the Regions. As the report of a distinguished, independent body (such as the Social Justice Commission set up by John Smith), the Millan commission's report is not a statement of Labour Party policy. It is in no way binding upon the party.

The report does, however, provide advice on an extremely important subject, and it is based on a great deal of expertise, research and experience. The Labour Party will consider its findings and recommendations very carefully over the next few months. I am sure it will provide valuable guidance for us as we develop Labour's policy.

The report shows how, with differ-

ent priorities but within existing resources, we could generate jobs and improve social justice by building on our regions. They could become more competitive, with more jobs, prosperity, investment and skills.

The commission regards traditional regional policy as a necessary, but insufficient, instrument for promoting regional economic development. Regional disparities are still a real problem. The North-South divide may have become blurred on official unemployment figures, but it is still strongly apparent on other measures. However, all regions now have problems: even London has areas in which unemployment is among the worst in

the regions.

Economic decision-making must be devolved from Whitehall, not wrested from local communities

are now among the poorest in northern industrial Europe. This is the extent of the problem we now face, and the Millan report concentrates on solutions to it.

We are the only major country in Europe without a proper regional government structure. This puts our regions at a disadvantage in making effective use of European money. Too much is spent on Whitehall's priorities, too little on those of the regions.

Labour has made separate proposals on the political structure of regional accountability, but the decentralisation of power is also a key to economic regeneration. Economic decision-making, in the thinking of the Millan commission, must be devolved from Whitehall, not wrested from local communities or local authorities.

Renewing our regions is not a peripheral subject; it is absolutely central to delivering a modern response to the challenge being posed by the global economy. There is a strong body of evidence which suggests that the influence of the nation state has declined in this new economy. It is through networks at regional level that we can challenge global competition most effectively.

Around the world, nation states

increasingly need strong, intelligent regions. Such regions are developing

elsewhere in Europe, with a network that helps business reach directly into the global economy, enabling it to adapt to – and exploit – dynamic, fast-moving situations.

Some of the recommendations of the Millan commission are already Labour Party policy. For example, Gordon Brown, Margaret Beckett and Frank Dobson have made clear our support for regional development agencies; they have worked out measures to aid small firms and set out ideas for planning and for London. Other of the commission's proposals will have to be carefully considered within the party before we reach a position on them.

Labour's plans for decentralising and devolving power aim to offer the people of Scotland, England and Wales a greater stake in their society – a new partnership with the people. Vigorous and thriving regions will also be vital to our plans for a dynamic economy that can stimulate sustainable growth. I hope this report will be a milestone on the way to a new, exciting role for the regions in British society.

John Prescott is Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

For further details of the Millan commission report, see page 15.

obituaries/gazette

Peter Glenville

With his dark, Celtic matinée-idol looks, Peter Glenville was a glittering figure in the post-war London theatre. He had made promising beginnings as a young actor in the Thirties and Forties, but achieved his greatest success as a director of West End plays for the management of H.M. Tennent. Under Blanche Beaumont, the head of that prolific firm, Glenville became one of a select group of young directors who could be relied on to give a Tennent production the immaculate standards prized by Beaumont — starry casting, high visual impact and a veneer of conspicuously polished taste.

Glenville, with his abundant cleverness and natural flair, gave the authentic Tennent stamp to a large number of important London productions. Among them were five plays by his friend Terence Rattigan, including *The Browning Version* and *Harlequinade* (both 1948), *Adventure Story* (1949). Rattigan's extravagant reworking of the life of Alexander the Great starring Paul Scofield — and *Separate Tables* (1954), with a cast led by Margaret Leighton and Eric Portman.

In 1948, he directed John Gielgud in a revival of *St John Hankin's* witty Edwardian morality play *The Return of the Prodigal*, with sets by Cecil Beaton, and in 1951 a delicately judged presentation of Tennessee Williams's *Summer and Smoke* with Margaret Johnson as the wistfully ill-adjusted Southern heroine. A broad-thinking study of domestic decay and lost faith provided the theme for Graham Greene's *The Living Room* (1953), with a cast headed by Eric Portman and the 23-year-old Dorothy Tutin.

He directed Alec Guinness (who was to become a lifelong friend) in *Sam and Bella Spewack's* 1951 version of Karel Čapek's *Insect Play*, entitled *Under the Sycamore Tree*: the production was designed by another friend, Oliver Messel.

Many of those who knew Peter Glenville would agree that his character was in inverse proportion to his stature. He was 5ft 5in and found throughout his distinguished career in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, from 1954 onwards, that he was constantly grappling with large pieces of ecclesiastical furniture: there are those who will recall his stirring, thought-provoking sermons delivered while standing atop a whisky crate on a wobbly platform of wobbly hassocks.

Born in Leicester in 1925, he felt called to the ministry at an early age, but before completing his theological education at King's College London he chose to leave his National Service in the RAF to work in the Nottinghamshire coal-mines at the Cinderhill Pit for two and a half years. When, in 1951, he was finally ordained deacon by Bishop Geoffrey Fisher in Canterbury Cathedral, 200 miners on the afternoon shift that day stood together for a minute's silence in support of "our Peter".

He was priest in 1952 while curate at St Oswald's, Norbury, in south London. Shortly after his arrival there, his vicar had been appointed Provost of



Natural hair: Glenville directing Simone Signoret and Laurence Olivier in the 1962 film *Term of Trial*

were actually a prodigiously successful theatrical couple and it was Glenville's luck that their success gave him financial independence, a fact which did nothing to quench either his application or ambition.

Educated by Jesuits at Stomhurst College (he retained his strong Catholic faith throughout his life), he went on to study Law at Christ Church, Oxford, where he became President of Oxford University Dramatic Society. His many roles for them included *Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Max Reinhardt.

It seemed inevitable that Glenville would swiftly become a major young actor. Between 1934 and 1947 he played professionally a succession of leading roles — classical, romantic and invariably showy — ranging from Tony Pirelli in Edgar Wallace's gangster drama *On the Spot* and Stephen Cass in Mary Hayley Bell's horror thriller

Duet For Two Hands to Romeo, Prince Hal and an intense Hamlet in a production which he also directed for the Old Vic company in Liverpool, where in 1946 he had been appointed a director. Here, at the age of 34, his experience confirmed that he had probably reached his limits as an actor and that his future career lay in direction.

After the mid-Fifties, Glenville lived and worked chiefly in New York. The varied productions he directed there included the Japanese Samurai revenge drama *Rashomon*, the French comedy *Tchin-Tchin*, a musical version of *Tovarich*, starring Vivien Leigh, John Osborne's *A Patriot For My Money* and Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in *Graham Greene's The Comedians* (1967) which his films leave one with a sense of expectations unfulfilled.

Glenville retained into old age his youthful appearance and zest; he had a seductively engaging manner, an air of brilliance and worldly assurance, lightened by an infectious sense of mischief and irony, when stories and gossip would tumble forth in gleeful, swooping bursts of emphasis.

He had always lived in style, first a young man in his thirties in a fine house, complete with butler, in Brompton Square, and afterwards for

the ill-fated two-hander *Our Cry* (1973) by Tennessee Williams.

Glenville directed several films but his touch was never as sure as for his work for the stage, and even with stars like Laurence Olivier and Simone Signoret (in *Term of Trial*, 1962) and Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton (in *Graham Greene's The Comedians*, 1967) his films leave one with a sense of expectations unfulfilled.

Glenville's directing style, and he developed alternative positions, then which stayed with him and puzzled many other trombonists in his later life.

His father, Charles, who

died in the 1918 flu epidemic, played the comet. When he died Helen took the family first to Oklahoma, then to Nebraska. Jack went on the road as a professional musician when he was 15 and by the mid-Twenties

Norma, who was still a teenager, was playing professionally in Oklahoma City.

She was already a remarkable pianist and when she was 18 left home to play with "territory" bands — bands which toured through New Mexico and Texas. The brother Charlie was one of the most fiery and technically able jazz trumpeters and, although he and Norma never broke free of Jack's shadow, the comparatively little work he put on record is much to be savoured. "Until he died Charlie had no idea how good he was," Norma told me in a broadcast interview.

Jack, kind, gentle and a hopeless businessman, had risen to stardom working for Benny Goodman, Red Nichols and Paul Whiteman. He left Whiteman to start the first of many financially disastrous big bands in 1939 and his brothers and sister joined the group. When it turned out that his brother Cub was inadequate as a drummer, Jack couldn't bring himself to tell him, and eventually hired a replacement without Cub's knowledge, with the result that both turned up for the same job.

"When we were in New York Jack wore one overcoat until it was threadbare," said Norma. "I begged him to buy another and eventually he did. A couple of days later he came home wearing the old one. I asked him where the new one was and he said he'd met a guy who needed a coat. I asked why he hadn't given me the old one. 'I like this one best,' he said."

When Jack disbanded in 1946 Norma settled first in Long Beach, where she worked as a soloist and led her own

Rafaela Aparicio, actress, died Madrid 9 June, aged 80. Star of dozens of Spanish films, including *El Sur* ("The South", 1983) and *El Año de Las Luces* ("The Year of Light", 1986). Awarded the Spanish Golden Medal for Merit in 1978.

lants: Philip Shepherd (Swepstone Walsh) for the respondents.

Lord Justice Nell said the

strict requirements of section

2 of the Law of Property

(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act

1989, that all the terms of a

contract for the sale or other

disposition of an interest in land

had to be incorporated in a

signed document, applied not

just to the contract itself, but

also to any variation later

agreed between the parties.

The Court of Appeal al-

lowed an appeal by the plain-

tiffs, Piers Conolly McCausland

and Elisabeth Maria Riaghach

McCaughan, against the deci-

sion of Mr Justice Knot, on 7

July 1995, striking out their

statement of claim against the

respondents, Duncan Lawrie

Ltd, a bank, and SIS Securities

Ltd, a property company. The

claim was for specific perfor-

mance of a contract dated

26 January 1995, whereby

SIS agreed to sell the prop-

erty known as 1 Beechmore

Road, London SW1, to the

plaintiffs for £210,000, and for

damages.

David Neuberger QC and M. Goldfarb

(H.C.L. Home & Co) for the appelle-

Norma Teagarden

The Teagardens were the most effective family in the whole of jazz. They were also one of the most close-knit. Jack, a prime mover of jazz trombone and the most famous, was notoriously easy-going. Whenever he led a band he tried to rope his siblings into it. Charlie played trumpet, Norma was the pianist and Cub, the youngest, played drums.

"Jack needed someone to take care of him," Norma remembered. "One time I visited him in Chicago when he was playing at the World's Fair — I think it was 1933 or 1934 — and there were 27 tuxedo shirts in his apartment. He just wore each one once and never sent them to the laundry. He just bought a new one every day. He was like that."

Norma and her mother Helen played in a band with the rest of the family, Jack, Charlie and Cub, at the 1963 Monterey Jazz Festival. It was Helen, who gave piano lessons in their home town of Vernon, Texas, who started all the children into music. She also played trumpet, trombone and guitar and supplied piano accompaniment to the silent films in the local cinema.

In 1952 after five years on the road with them Jack left Louis Armstrong's All Stars owing to poor health. He formed a sextet on the West Coast and brought back Charlie and Norma. "We were very close," she said, "because we all spoke the same musical language. We had more in common than we would have had if one of us had been in another business. Charles and Jack both admired the other's playing, but one would try to outdo the other. At one recording date with the sextet we did 'Body and Soul'. Jack took the first chorus and then Charles played so gorgeously, then Jack came back and did the same thing. I remember the engineer said 'That's one record I'm buying.'

When the sextet visited Milwaukee on tour in 1955 Norma met the businessman John Friedlander and they were married six weeks later.

"I didn't play for quite a while after that. John wasn't a musician, so I thought when we married I would get out of the business. I had a couple of pupils for music lessons, but, as John was home a lot during the day, he got tired of the kids practising so I quit. After a year or so we left Milwaukee and settled in San Francisco, where we've been ever since."

In San Francisco Norma turned to jazz. She played with the bands of Turk Murphy, Pete LaFata and others. In 1975 she became a solo pianist at the Washington Square Bar and Grill, where she played until ill-health forced her retirement last year. "It happens to be the place in San Francisco. Very crowded, very noisy, but everyone goes there including all the politicians. The Mayor comes in with people, writers, sports people and others come just to see who's there."

She was in demand for jazz festivals and visited Britain in 1986, but played in obscure halls and didn't receive the acclamation that she should have done. Her radiant personality made her quite unforgettable and her programmed mixture of stride piano and homespun ballads was most appealing. We corresponded from that time on and I interviewed her live from her home several times for BBC Radio Merseyside.

Jack, kind, gentle and a hopeless businessman, had risen to stardom working for Benny Goodman, Red Nichols and Paul Whiteman. He left Whiteman to start the first of many financially disastrous big bands in 1939 and his brothers and sister joined the group. When it turned out that his brother Cub was inadequate as a drummer, Jack couldn't bring himself to tell him, and eventually hired a replacement without Cub's knowledge, with the result that both turned up for the same job.

"When we were in New York Jack wore one overcoat until it was threadbare," said Norma. "I begged him to buy another and eventually he did. A couple of days later he came home wearing the old one. I asked him where the new one was and he said he'd met a guy who needed a coat. I asked why he hadn't given me the old one. 'I like this one best,' he said."

When Jack disbanded in 1946 Norma settled first in Long Beach, where she worked as a soloist and led her own

Rafaela Aparicio, actress, died Madrid 9 June, aged 80. Star of dozens of Spanish films, including *El Sur* ("The South", 1983) and *El Año de Las Luces* ("The Year of Light", 1986). Awarded the Spanish Golden Medal for Merit in 1978.

lants: Philip Shepherd (Swepstone Walsh) for the respondents.

Lord Justice Nell said the

strict requirements of section

2 of the Law of Property

(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act

1989, that all the terms of a

contract for the sale or other

disposition of an interest in land

had to be incorporated in a

signed document, applied not

just to the contract itself, but

also to any variation later

agreed between the parties.

The Court of Appeal al-

lowed an appeal by the plain-

tiffs, Piers Conolly McCausland

and Elisabeth Maria Riaghach

McCaughan, against the deci-

sion of Mr Justice Knot, on 7

July 1995, striking out their

statement of claim against the

respondents, Duncan Lawrie

Ltd, a bank, and SIS Securities

Ltd, a property company. The

claim was for specific perfor-

mance of a contract dated

26 January 1995, whereby

SIS agreed to sell the prop-

erty known as 1 Beechmore

Road, London SW1, to the

plaintiffs for £210,000, and for

damages.

David Neuberger QC and M. Goldfarb

(H.C.L. Home & Co) for the appelle-

The respondents accepted that section 2 contained strict

provisions relating to the forma-

tion of a contract for the sale or

other disposition of an inter-

est in land, but submitted that

section 2 had not altered the

law on oral variations of a

contract. It had always been the

law that oral variations of writ-

ten contracts were capable of

proof. The manner of proof was

a rule of evidence. There was

nothing in section 2 to show

Government accused of nuclear sale deception

PATRICK TOOHER

The controversy surrounding nuclear privatisation intensified yesterday when the Labour Party accused the Government of lying to the public and misleading Parliament over details of next month's sale of British Energy, which is expected to raise up to £2bn to help fund pre-election tax cuts. Labour also attacked the big pay increases detailed in the pathfinder for British Energy's main board directors.

The allegations came as British Energy, the loss-making nuclear generating company being sold off, revealed in its pathfinder prospectus that shareholders would receive maiden dividends totalling £96m – almost twice as much as the company is expected to make in pre-tax profits in its first year on the stock market.

Up to 700 million shares in the company, representing the Government's entire stake, are being sold.

The first of two instalments for small investors will be at 100p per share, with a minimum investment of £300. So far, more than 750,000 private investors have registered for shares.

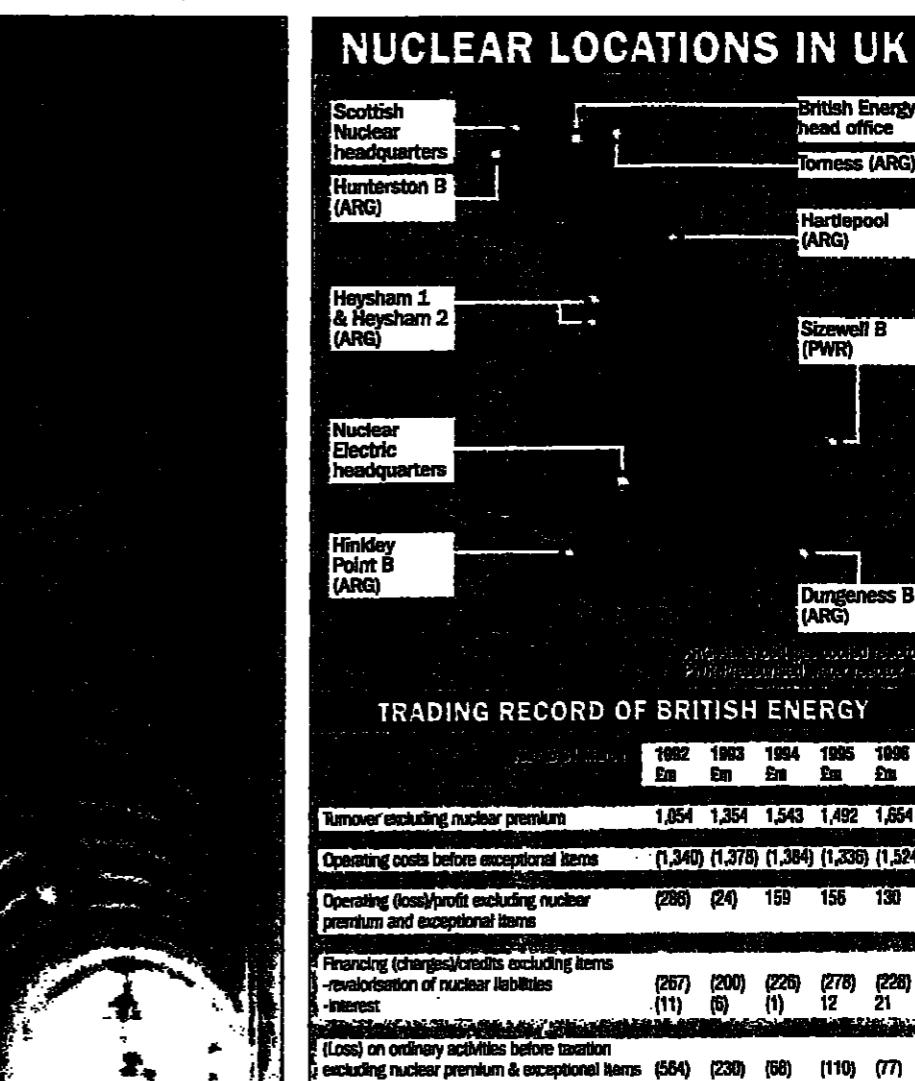
John Battle, the shadow energy minister, said the main "Tory lie" was the Government's failure to ensure that there were enough funds to deal with long-term nuclear liabilities. He said: "This sale is subsidised to a quite unprecedented degree."

He added: "It is an extraordinarily bad deal for the taxpayers and if it goes ahead under these terms then a Labour government would certainly have to examine the regulatory framework in which British Energy operates."

Mr Battle's accusation related to the storage and fuel reprocessing and decommissioning of power plants of the old Magnox reactors remaining in state hands. Some li-



Pathfinders: (from left) Robert Hawley, chief executive, Tim Eggar MP, and John Robb, chairman of British Energy



TRADING RECORD OF BRITISH ENERGY

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover excluding nuclear premium	1,654	1,354	1,543	1,492	1,654
Operating costs before exceptional items	(1,340)	(1,378)	(1,384)	(1,336)	(1,524)
Operating costs/profit excluding nuclear premium and exceptional items	(266)	(24)	159	156	130
Financing (charges/credits) excluding items	(267)	(200)	(226)	(278)	(226)
Interest	(11)	(6)	(1)	12	21
(Loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	(564)	(230)	(66)	(110)	(77)
excluding nuclear premium & exceptional items					

Photograph: Colin McMillan

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

business

Standard Life share sale cools Bank of Scotland bid hopes

NIC CICUTTI

Standard Life, the UK's largest mutual insurer, yesterday dashed hopes of a takeover battle for Bank of Scotland by announcing that it would dispose of "a substantial part" of its 32.2 per cent stake in the bank through a secondary offering.

The insurer said that Bank of Scotland would help with the marketing of its shares portfolio, worth an estimated £900m.

Standard Life's decision on the Bank of Scotland shares follows a four-week review of all options in relation to its stake in the bank, which it described as a "large proportion" of its UK equity portfolio.

Scott Bell, the insurer's group managing director, said: "We continue to have confidence in Bank of Scotland's future prospects and strategies, but following our review of the options available to us, we have now decided in the interests of our equityholders to rebalance our equity portfolio."

The decision helped to cool widespread speculation over Bank of Scotland's future as an independent force in UK banking. Shares in the bank dropped by 16.5p to 248p when the news emerged.

Potential bidders tipped for the one third stake in the bank included its rival, Royal Bank of Scotland, together with Abbey National, Lloyds and a number of foreign banks, especially from the US.

Standard Life's move, which

is believed to have caught Bank of Scotland unawares, led to the resignation of Sir Bruce Pattullo, the bank's governor, from the insurer's board.

It is understood that Bank of Scotland was keen to see the shares disposed of through a secondary offering, thus allowing it to maintain its independence, rather than being sold in one single or several large parcels.

Sir Bruce said yesterday that the bank had performed strongly and had confidence about its future.

"Naturally we are sad that Standard Life has decided to reduce its stake, but recognise that the growth in the value of the investment has resulted in a need for it to rebalance its portfolio," he said.

He added that he would comment on Bank of Scotland's current trading at the bank's annual general meeting later today.

In April, the bank reported a strong climb in pre-tax profits for last year from £26.7m to £44.9m – a result that was accompanied by a increase in the final dividend from 3.18p to 3.69p.

Although shares in Bank of Scotland fell after Standard Life announced how it would dispose of its stake, analysts said they were not too concerned by the drop.

A secondary offering undermined bid hopes in the stock, dealers said: "Admittedly it is not easy to find someone who can afford to buy the Bank of



Sad-but resigned: Sir Bruce Pattullo remains confident about the bank's future

Scotland, given its size, and [that] a premium would be required," one said.

"But my sense is that this just kicks the shares back down to

where they were before all the news hit." Before the announcement a month ago that Standard Life was looking to dispose of the stock, Bank of

Scotland's share price stood at 242p. By the end of that week it had leapt to around 270p and reached a high of 286.5p on 21 May.

Acquisitions on the menu as profits flow at Unigate

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE

After last year's impressive rise, shares in Unigate have looked wobbly this year and lost 10 per cent of their value at the time of the BSE scare in March. But things are starting to look up.

The sale of the 29 per cent stake in Nutricia in December for a net gain of £21.2m has transformed the company's balance sheet leaving net cash of £170m. Since the year-end, the troublesome Black Eyed Pea chain of US restaurants have been sold, requiring a total provision of £59.5m. The Taco Bueno chain will be off-loaded this year leaving Unigate concentrated on two main businesses, fresh foods and distribution.

With the funds likely to be used for an acquisition rather than a share buy-back, the market wasted no time trying to second-guess what's possible. Shares in Gestet, short of its troublesome banana business, stormed 20p ahead. Dairy Crest, the foods group that is coming to the market valued at £374m, would be an easily digestible bite. There is a hint that a European deal could also be on the cards as Unigate has named its recently acquired French business St Ivel Europe, even though it only includes the French division. The City would prefer a food deal, but an acquisition to bolster the Wincanton logistics business is also possible with Tibbett & Britten a candidate.

Acquisition talk meant Unigate's results took something of a backseat. Profits jumped from £58m to £39m in the year to March though this was largely due to profits on disposals including the Nutricia stake and the Giltspur exhibitions business. At the operating level, profits rose 12.2 per cent to £114m. As expected, profits in the dairies business fell from £38m to £35m. Doorstep sales of milk fell 16 per cent during the year but the fall is slowing. Milk supply to the supermarkets remains under pressure as the grocers squeeze supplier margins. Chief executive Ross Buckland is still angry about Milk Marque's price rises and supports inquiries that could see the situation corrected.

European Foods had a good year boosted by the first full-year contribution from the French business. Malton, the UK's largest supplier of bacon, ham and pork, also performed well, though the benefit from the beef scare will be felt in the current year's profits. Wincanton Logistics, the distribution division, added

new customers and has invested in new automated warehouse.

Analysts are sticking with a profits forecast of £125m. With the shares up 3p to 417p, that puts Unigate's stock on a forward rating of just over 10. This is a discount to the sector which would make the shares look cheap if Mr Buckland pulls off a decent deal. With little downside the shares are worth a look.

Little shine at Salvesen

After six years of restructuring Christian Salvesen, chief executive Dr Chris Masters would have hoped to be a lot further along than this. A raft of businesses have been sold, including everything from brick-making to pollution-control equipment. What remains is the distribution business, the Aggreko power generation and temperature control division and food services. The latter, which processes frozen vegetables, is deemed non-core but is profitable and there are no plans to sell it.

Salvesen may be lean and mean compared to what it was but the shares have not responded. After reaching nearly 400p in early 1993, they plunged in 1994 after Aggreko ran into problems in the US. Since then they have gone precisely nowhere as the company wrestled with Aggreko and the logistics business hit a rough patch.

A continuing problem is the

company's exposure to the supermarket groups, which have been hammering supplier margins.

Pre-tax profits for the year to March fell from £111m to £87m, although the previous year's figures were inflated by exceptional. Group operating profits edged up to £80m but profits in European logistics fell due to "severe pressure" in the food markets in Germany and the UK where Salvesen supplies most of the big supermarkets.

The company is trying to reduce its dependency on the grocery sector although it still accounts for 31 per cent of the division's profits. It has been introducing more flexible working practices and investing heavily in new technology. Profits were hit by a £1.5m charge to cover redundancy costs as associated with the shift to seven-day working required to fit in with retailers' Sunday trading.

Germany was even more of a problem where the de-regulation of the transport industry increased competition and pushed Salvesen's division into a £2m loss. No improvement is expected in the short term.

With costs reducing and the supermarket groups showing more willingness to work with suppliers, there are signs that the worst is over. Elsewhere, the Aggreko business had a good year, pushing up profits by a healthy 19.5 per cent to £30.7m.

For all this there are signs that Salvesen may be about to lift itself off the bottom as improvements in its logistics division start to reap dividends.

UNIGATE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1bn, share price 417p

Five-Year record 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996

Turnover (£m) 2.0 1.9 1.98 1.9 2.1

Pre-tax profits (£m) 65.7 101.4 102.4 58.3 29

Earnings per share (pence) 23.4 31.3 31.4 19.8 11.2

Dividends per share (pence) 15.3 16.1 17.3 18.2 19.2

Operating profits (£m) (continuing operations)

1995 1996

Fresh foods 35 40

Dairies 38 35

Wincanton logistics (to be sold) 22 15

US 10 10

Total 85 80

Share price pence

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996

200 250 300 350 400 450 500

Source: Datastream

BA's US deal set for flight

DAVID USBORNE

NEW YORK

A long-awaited deal between British Airways and American Airlines to combine their music on routes across the Atlantic in a code-sharing arrangement is set to be announced in New York this morning, sources indicated yesterday.

The two carriers, which are already among the most profitable in the world, are expected to propose a deal that will involve a pooling of resources and profits on traffic between Britain and North America. The airline programmes of the two airlines would also be linked. But the agreement stops short of an exchange of equity between the companies.

It would represent the latest in a series of code-sharing pacts reached by big airlines as a means of extending their reach around the world without actually having to merge with each other and relinquish their identities. United Airlines and Lufthansa recently consummated such a deal, while Northwest Airlines and KLM have been linked for a few years.

A tie-up between BA and American is likely to face several hurdles, however. Alarm bells will be sounded with government regulators and with other carriers competing across the Atlantic because of the sheer power that would be wielded by the two carriers in combination. Together, they already account for some 58 per cent of traffic between Britain and the US.

IN BRIEF

• Lloyd's of London has been forced to hold an EGM by five names' groups: the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, the Paying Names Action Group, the Writs Response Group, the Judicial Review Initiative and the Lloyd's Defence Shield. The aim, said the LNAWP, was to increase the £3.1bn settlement offer in Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal plan. The LNAWP feels the £200m pledged by managing agents so far is "woefully inadequate" and hopes to double this amount due to the better-than-expected commissions made by agencies over the last few years.

• Banking systems in emerging countries remain fragile even though world financial markets have been relatively calm in the year after the Mexican crisis, the Bank for International Settlements warned in its annual report yesterday. The central bank said that many developing country banks were inefficient, and that the legal framework in many countries was unsatisfactory, and that banks tended to have inadequately diversified loans, many lending heavily to related companies. Hamish McRae, page 19

• Two partners at BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountancy firm, earn more than £250,000, according to figures released for the first time. The firm, which is one of the "second tier" of practices just below the Big Six, disclosed that the average earnings of the 158 equity partners rose 6 per cent to £92,000 in the year to the end of March. Fee income grew by 4.8 per cent, to £100.3m.

• Unemployment in Germany fell by 7,000 to 3,926,000 last month, following a 60,000 fall the previous month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.3 per cent. The declines mark the reversal of earlier weather-related increases.

• Two ice-cream makers who bought their company from Unilever five years ago, will find their shares in the business worth £10m when it comes to the stock market. John Butters and Barry Thomas will retain a 43 per cent stake in Treats, which will be valued at £19.5m. The shares are priced at 174p.

• ING Group confirmed that its ING Barings unit had launched a court claim in the US for more than \$10m (£6.5m) against Deutsche Bank. The complaints cited in the suit relate to how Deutsche Bank's investment banking unit Deutsche Morgan Grenfell hired 45 ING Barings employees from its Latin American equities operations.

• Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust plans to replace 60 per cent of its 500 million shares with convertible loan stock. The company can then begin to redeem to pull up the value of the stock and the shares which have fallen from the initial 100p in January 1994 to 92.5p, a discount of 17 per cent on the net asset value. The reorganisation follows complaints from shareholders.

• Abbey National expects to pay out £470m in shares and £880m in cash to members of National & Provincial Building Society when it is taken over at the end of August. Average payouts are £1,300, and the 310,000 borrowers and 136,000 short-term investors get £500 in shares.

Brokers relinquish circular saw

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

I think it was Winston Churchill who said, after being appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, "What is a Duchy and where is Lancaster?" Anyway,

Roger Freeman is the present incumbent, and Minister of Public Services to boot. Mr Freeman is also the minister responsible for implementing the Government's policy on Mad Cow Disease and the eradication thereof. The National Farmers' Union has invited the minister to address its north-eastern area on the subject, and obviously has a very clear idea of the Duchy's duties. In its announcement, the NFU duels Mr Freeman simply: "Mr BSE."

Now that Lord Kingsdown has retired as Governor of the Bank of England he has more time to devote to his

favourite hobbies such as bee-keeping and being Lord Lieutenant of Kent. But it's not all fun. Every month he has to head off to Basle for the board meeting of the Bank for International Settlements, the central bank for central banks. Lord Kingsdown has been a director since stepping down as Governor, and is succeeded by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi as BIS vice-chairman. Not to worry, though. The BIS's formal meetings are extremely short. According to sources, all the real business is done informally. "The BIS is like a global restaurant for central bankers," the source said. Sounds like the ideal retirement job.

Howard Seymour, head of BZW's construction research team, recently sent his deputy, Chris Grant, on an

analysts' trip to Denver, Colorado. A dozen analysts were there to hear a presentation by the giant construction firm Camas. The analysts took themselves off to a local Denver night spot called the I-Zone – where Mr Grant was refused entry. Apparently the doorman refused to believe Mr Grant was over 20 without suitable identification. Perhaps this explains Mr Grant's nickname among fellow analysts – "Student".

NatWest Ventures has just completed an MBO of an MBO – a £20m secondary buyout of the Solicitors' Law Stationery Society. This supplier of paper and biros to the legal profession is better known as "Oyez", and was formerly owned by that famous upholder of the law, Robert Maxwell.



It all started 50 years ago, down there by plant number one when I found 40 million pounds under a rock.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Asic (F)	137m (108m)	10.2m (8.21m)	30.1p (28p)	8.4p (-)
Berisford (F)	242m (158m)	11.9m (11.1m)	6.6p (5.7p)	1.5p (-)
Carv UK (I)	8.03m (6.55m)	1.65m (1.16m)	3.16p (2.07p)	0.28p (-)
James Cropper (F)	57.6m (49.7m)	1.85m (2.57m)	13.7p (19.5p)	3.5p (3.7p)
Den Valley Water (F)	11.8m (11.5m)	5.8m (4.46m)	20.3p (24.84p)	14.5p (11.5p)
Electrotemp Components (F)	650m (474m)	99.2m (85.1m)	15.2p (13.7p)	6.8p (5.825p)
Electrotemp Data (I)	7.98m (5.32m)	1.5m (1.21m)	3.25p (4.55p)	0.687p (0.687p)
Enser Holdings (F)	15.3m (14.7m)	0.45m (0.40m)	1.5p (1.4p)	0.45p (-)
Graveline (F)	95.2m (85.9m)	3.75m (14.6m)	6.15p (19.97p)	4.12p (-)
Field Group (F)				



COMMENT

The Fayed factor, however many top names and celebrity non-execs are recruited to the board, is going to hang like a spectre over any flotation attempt'

Harrods to float at £2bn? Pull the other one

When Mirror Group Newspapers was floated on the stock market, the issue had to be priced to reflect what advisers called "the Max factor". This recognised that whatever was done to ring-fence the company from Robert Maxwell's other business interests, it made no difference. So long as the great man remained *in situ*, investors would demand a discount that reflected his checkered business record and his well documented tendency towards fraud. As it turned out, the market's view was wholly vindicated. Not until Mr Maxwell had gone and all vestiges of his legacy swept away, did the shares begin trading at what might be considered a fair value for the business.

Nobody would suggest that Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, has anything very much in common with Robert Maxwell, but there is one thing they do share: they have both been severely and publicly criticised by Department of Trade inspectors. By the time he floated his company on the stock market, Mr Maxwell had largely erased this from his copy book. When anyone asked him about it, he falsely claimed that the courts had overturned the inspectors' findings, and he tended to sue those who questioned his *bond fides*. Even so, few of those charged with managing other people's money forgot those damning Board of Trade findings. Every time he tried to tap the capital markets, they extracted their pound of flesh.

Mr Fayed, who is considering floating Harrods on the stock market, will find him-

self in a similar position. In 1988 the Department of Trade and Industry said of the Fayed's that they dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources to the Secretary of State, the Office of Fair Trading, the press, the House of Fraser board and House of Fraser shareholders, and their own advisers. In other words, they lied. Like Robert Maxwell before them, they have attempted to overturn these findings through the courts. The campaign has not been without some success, for the sheer weight of the legal and public relations effort has convinced many that the Fayed's were badly treated and the Board of Trade report was flawed. However, the inspectors' findings have not yet been struck from the register.

Mohamed Al Fayed would hardly be the first successful businessman to be accused of lying. And anyway, say advisers, it was all a long time ago. Even so, the Fayed factor, however many top names and celebrity non-execs are recruited to the board, is going to hang like a spectre over any flotation attempt. What makes this flotation doubly more difficult for Mr Fayed's no doubt hand-somely paid advisers is that he is also demanding a valuation – about £2bn – which looks like pure fantasy. Even without the Fayed factor, investors would never worth anything as fancy as this.

It is claimed that Harrods will, by the turn of the century, be making annual profits of £100m. That's going it from last year's level

of around £70m, but let's be charitable and take it as read. Harrods would then stand on prospective multiple of about 30. Top international fashion businesses might just about command such a valuation. Department stores, even when the name is that of Harrods, do not. As British Energy and Railtrack are proving, anything can be floated if the price is right. But Mr Fayed will not get £2bn for his company. Many will boycott him altogether.

Paying through the nose for common sense

The world is changing so significantly that competing in the near future will be very different from the way it has been in the recent past ... The words are taken from a recently published book by two consultants at McKinsey & Company, but they could have been said by just about any management consultant over the past 20 years.

All the same, statements like this have struck fear into the hearts of Britain's boardrooms and made the occupants more ready than ever before to call on consultants to help them cope with the chaos and confusion of a changing world. Management consultancy is said to generate up to £2.5bn a year in UK billings nowadays. The industry encompasses a huge range of talent, from the totally incompetent to the highly accomplished, but it is McKinsey which has

acquired the mystique of the place to go to if you are being really serious. In recent months, Shell and fellow Anglo-Dutch multinational Unilever have publicised the firm's role in formulating their new structures. Now, the BBC's reorganisation for the digital age is reminding us of the help it has been giving to John Birt and his colleagues.

Much of its success can be put down to its policy of encouraging its people to leave its well-paid, high-pressure confines for positions where they can influence people and hire their old associates. Asda chief Archie Norman, Bank of England deputy-governor Howard Davies and CBI director general Adair Turner are all, like best-selling author and management guru Tom Peters, alumnus.

But it also owes something to business people's belief in quick fixes. In going after McKinsey they are doing the modern equivalent of buying IBM because no one ever got fired for doing that. They are a bright lot and no doubt deserve whatever they are paid. But ask any of the handful of British companies that have managed to be successful over decades rather than a few years about their commitment to any of the facts management consultants like to hook their wagons to and as likely as not they will look at you blank-faced. Sure, they listen to the consultants, but they also make up their own minds. There is a limit to the number of times you can re-invent the wheel. As one senior consultant admitted recently, "good

consultancy is essentially common sense". How strange that executives feel they have to pay so dearly for a commodity like this.

British Energy gets it with both barrels

We were obviously a little premature when we said in Saturday's business comment that neither Labour nor the environmentalists was particularly bothered about nuclear privatisation. While it is true that neither has been particularly vocal on the matter in recent months, they were giving it both barrels yesterday, as the British Energy prospectus was published. What they said about it distills down to just one thing though: the taxpayer is being ripped off. Now there's a thing. It is what Labour has said about virtually every privatisation to date.

The effect, invariably, is to give the marketing process an unexpected boost, for if the taxpayer is losing, someone else is gaining. Whoever you believe about all this, there is no doubt that British Energy is a very odd sort of company. As an investment, it is like a wasting asset, for dividends are to be paid for the foreseeable future out of capital. If you never expect to build another nuclear power station again, which is true of British Energy, then this seems not a bad policy, but it is one many investors will have some difficulty getting to grips with. Even so, British Energy has been priced to sell.

Lower factory gate prices support Clarke's rate cut

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Prices charged by manufacturers at the factory gate fell in May for the first time since August 1992, according to figures yesterday which lent support to Kenneth Clarke's surprise cut last week in the cost of borrowing.

There was further good cheer for the Chancellor in news that the recovery in retail spending strengthened last month, although this weighed against his interest rate decision. Sales growth at big stores was the second-highest since it started its monthly survey, the British Retail Consortium said.

Most analysts believe growing evidence of a consumer recovery led Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to oppose last week's quarter point reduction in base rates.

Mr George said yesterday there was room for "minor disagreements" in the monetary framework.

Economists said the slowdown in producer price inflation would be echoed in lower retail price inflation in the next 12 months unless retailers took the opportunity to increase their profit margins.

Adam Cole, an economist at James Capel, said: "The producer price figures provide just the sort of justification for last week's base rate cut Mr Clarke

will have been hoping for." Prices charged by manufacturers at the factory gate fell in May for the first time since August 1992, according to figures yesterday which lent support to Kenneth Clarke's surprise cut last week in the cost of borrowing.

"Core" prices, excluding energy and food, grew at an annual rate of only 2.4 per cent, although they edged up in May.

Prices paid for materials and fuel fell 0.5 per cent, taking their annual rate of increase to 3.2 per cent from 3.2 per cent in April.

There was an even more dramatic slowdown in "core" input prices, down 1.7 per cent in the year to May after falling 1 per cent in the year to April. This measure of prices right at the beginning of the production chain has fallen for eight months running – the longest run of declines since the mid-1980s. The only remaining area where materials costs are rising is imported fuels, up 3.9 per cent in May despite the pound's strength.

"This is unambiguous good news on inflation," said Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe.

The good news on consumer spending was the rise in annual sales growth at 75 big retailers monitored by the British Retail Consortium.

The value of like-for-like sales was 6.2 per cent higher in

May than a year earlier, the highest recorded since the survey started at the beginning of 1994 apart from an Easter-boosted surge in March.

The increase – in the coldest May on record – represented a significant advance on the 4.1 per cent average growth of the previous three months. Housing-related items such as china, furniture and DIY products did particularly well.

So did clothing, with knitwear purchases offsetting disappointing sales of warm-weather clothes. Vizitans sold well at the expense of sun creams.

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC's economic committee, said: "Last week's modest interest rate reduction was welcome and is a further step in the right direction."

Andrew Sentance, a London Business School economist who advises the BRC, said: "On current trends we are heading for the strongest period of consumer growth seen in the UK since the late 1980s."

He added, though, that the present environment was very different from the boom conditions then.

The pound lost more than a pence against the mark, ending at DM2.3522 yesterday. It also closed down a cent at \$1.5317. Most of the rash of economic figures due later this week are expected to tilt Mr Clarke's way.

The pound lost more than a pence against the mark, ending at DM2.3522 yesterday. It also closed down a cent at \$1.5317. Most of the rash of economic figures due later this week are expected to tilt Mr Clarke's way.



One of the few remaining corporate bastions where one person holds the dual roles of chairman and chief executive has fallen. Smiths Industries, the defence electronics company and one of the leading 100 companies in the UK, yesterday announced that Keith Butler-Wheathouse (right) will become chief executive, succeeding Sir Roger Hurn (left) who will still remain

chairman. Mr Butler-Wheathouse, 50, joins from the Swedish Saab Automobile company, where he has been chief executive for four years. Sir Roger said: "With all the advantages of an outsider coming in, he will bring fresh thinking and vision to our affairs." No salary details are yet being released. Sir Roger last year earned £644,000, including bonuses.

Chiltern MBO approved

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The franchise to run the Chiltern Railway, the most modern commuter line on the rail network, has been won by M40 Trains, the management buyout team.

The team, led by Adrian Shooter and backed by John Laing and 3i, has been announced by Roger Salmon, the franchising director, as the preferred bidder to run Chiltern which operates trains out of Marylebone to commuter towns such as Aylesbury and High Wycombe, and services to Birmingham.

It is thought the winning team has plans to expand and speed up the Birmingham service, which takes two and a half hours, providing real competition for the West Coast Main Line. There are also suggestions of a shuttle service to London suburbs using older trains.

The line was improved under the "total route modernisation" plan in the early 1990s as an experiment to discover if more reliable services, modern trains attracted more customers to rail and the scheme has proved hugely successful, making the franchise one of the most sought after on the network.

The victory by the management buyout team reverses the recent trend of in-house bids losing out to competitors outside the industry.

Final terms of M40's bid will be negotiated over the next fortnight, and the MBO team will probably start operating services within a couple of months.

Citic cuts stake in HK Telecom

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

A fresh bout of uncertainty hit the Cable & Wireless-controlled Hongkong Telecom with news yesterday that its main Chinese shareholder, Citic Pacific, had cut its stake in the colony's telecommunications company from 10 to 8 per cent.

Citic Pacific is the locally listed arm of Peking's largest investment company, the China International Trust and Investment Corp, which recently raised its stake in Cathay Pacific Airways from 10 to 25 per cent

amid suggestions that it would eventually take control of the airline away from the British-run Swire Pacific.

The sale of its Hongkong Telecom stake raised some HK\$3.5bn (£252m), which will contribute to the HK\$6.3bn Citic Pacific needs to raise for the Cathay deal agreed in April and for a clutch of infrastructure projects in China.

This is the second time this year that Citic Pacific has sold down its stake in Hongkong Telecom. In January it raised about the same amount when reducing its share ownership

from 12 to 10 per cent. When it first acquired Hongkong Telecom shares in 1988 Citic's holding stood at 20 per cent.

However, the sale cannot be clearly seen as a sign of retreat from Hongkong Telecom because Citic Pacific makes frequent forays into the market to raise cash. In September 1995 it cut its stake in Cathay before returning eight months later to take a far larger share.

The Chinese-controlled company says it sold the shares in order to "refocus" its investment strategy, however it retains a holding in the telecommunications network, China United Telecommunications Co, in which Citic Pacific's parent has a significant share, would be buying into Hongkong Telecom.

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE INDEPENDENT



Now and Then (certificate PG) stars Melanie Griffiths, Demi Moore, Rosie O'Donnell and Rita Wilson in a nostalgic and funny portrait of how one summer set in motion the adult lives of four remarkable women. In 1970 they made a friendship pact as the not-so-innocent world of childhood

Spy Hard (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent WD-10, a.k.a. Steele – Dick Steele in a comedy of high-voltage adventure, high-tech gadgetry and low-brow humour.

In Toy Story (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

Up Close and Personal (certificate 15) stars Michelle Pfeiffer as Tally Atwater, a articulate, sophisticated and charming newscaster. She is a familiar and comforting face to millions of network TV news viewers. Going from small-town weathergirl to prime-time network anchor she was aided and abetted by Warren Justice (Robert Redford) a brilliant older newsman, her mentor and lover. Their romance is intense and exhilarating yet each breaking story threatens to drive them apart.



Up Close and Personal

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The 'free' ticket may only have a value equal to, or less than, the purchased ticket (i.e. the purchase of a child's ticket will not entitle an adult to free admission).
2. The voucher is only valid for admission to any film showing at Odeon Cinemas between 3 June - 13 June 1996.
3. The voucher is only valid when three differently numbered tokens are purchased from The Independent or Independent on Sunday.
4. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
5. Odeon standard terms and conditions of purchase apply.
6. The voucher may not be used for telephone bookings and does not give the holder preference over other customers.
7. Odeon Cinemas reserve the right to refuse admission.
8. This offer does not apply to Odeon Leicester Square & Mezzanine, and the Odeon West End.
9. Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.

THE INDEPENDENT

TOKEN 11

ODEON CINEMAS

THE INDEPENDENT

ODEON CINEMAS

THE INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Bogey of inflation in danger of being deflated

Could inflation revive, or is deflation set to rule? This is the great question affecting not just all financial markets and all companies, but all of us as savers and borrowers. The financial markets (and I suspect most of us as individuals) make an explicit assumption that inflation will tick along at about 3 per cent for the foreseeable future, at least in the UK. That is why it typically costs between 7 and 8 per cent for a mortgage: 3 per cent for inflation, and another 4 to 5 per cent real cost.

But maybe this will be wrong. The annual inflationary outcome could average anything between zero (or maybe a negative, for that happened for much of the last century) and the high single figures if inflation revives. Most professional investors, if pressed, would expect the outcome to err on the downside. At the moment the risks of deflation appear greater than that of revived inflation.

But that judgement too, may be wrong. Perhaps inflation, in the short term at least, could come up quite fast. Perhaps, on the other hand, deflation could become much more serious than it seems now.

These twin dangers are the key points tackled in the new Bank for International Settlements annual report, published yesterday. For people unfamiliar with this publication, it is perhaps the best annual survey of the state of the world economy that anyone produces. It is a central bankers' view for the BIS is the central bankers' bank.

Perhaps it is that, or maybe something about being located in an ivory tower in Basle that gives a clarity and judgement to its views – or maybe, less charitably, the BIS simply has a number of high-quality people without a lot to do. Be that as



ECONOMIC VIEW
HAMISH McRAE

it may, for anyone interested in the interaction between financial markets and the world economy the BIS annual report is very good.

There is usually a theme to each year's commentary and this year it is that the moment of victory over inflation carries dangers of a different kind.

Price stability, the Holy Grail of central bankers, "has been reached, or almost reached, in a large number of countries in the industrial as well as the developing world". In stead there is the danger of disinflation: "... disinflationary forces will continue to exert an influence, as will the effects of excess capacity which still characterises many of the industrial countries other than the United States." There is still an in-

terest in many years. With a nice long perspective, the BIS likens the present situation to that of the early 1920s when Keynes and Wickson noted that central banks should be ready to resist both inflation and deflation.

This reflection in itself is interesting, for throughout the post-war period it has been assumed that the appropriate stance for central banks is to lean against inflation. That position is still reflected in what central bankers always say, though not necessarily in what they do. Now the annual report of the central bankers club is warning of the other danger. That is a significant shift, reflecting a changed reality.

Besides, the BIS points out, the two most important macro-economic problems in the world have dis-

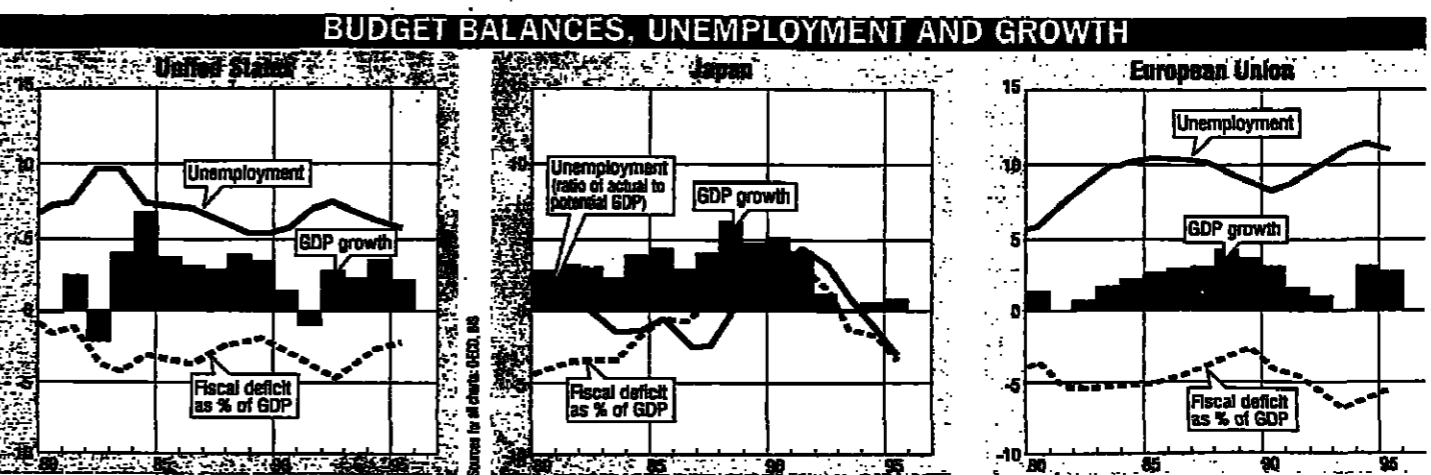
Price stability, the Holy Grail of central bankers, has been reached'

flationary threat, and this comes from two rather different sources. In North America the economy is close to full capacity; in Europe the level of structural unemployment may create such pressures that inflation is seen as a way out. In addition, many developing countries have high inflation. But on balance the forces bearing on inflation – those pushing it up and those pushing it down – are more balanced than

flationary implications. These are fiscal deficits and reform of labour markets, particularly in Europe.

The graphs, drawn from the BIS report, show these two problems for the three main developed country economic zones, the US, Japan and the European Union.

As you can see, the fiscal problem (the dotted line) is common to all three areas, now that Japan has plunged into deficit.



Add in the demographic changes each region will experience over the next 25 years and the underlying deficits are even larger. The longer the correction is delayed the greater the scale of the problem being generated. But of course in the short term correcting a fiscal deficit probably has disinflationary effects.

The unemployment threat is also highlighted. Here the three zones have very different experience: the US has an unemployment under control; in Japan it is concealed (the BIS took the ratio of actual to potential GDP as a measure of slack in the labour market, rather than actual published unemployment); and in Europe it is dreadful and getting more so. The danger is that the method of correcting these European levels of unemployment – freeing up labour markets – will in the short run make the problem appear worse. The BIS does not say so, but UK experience is interesting here. We now have lower unem-

ployment than the other large European economies thanks to labour market reforms which have made it possible to expand the economy without running into pay pressures. But for much of the 1980s, only one unemployment was evident: the time correcting a fiscal deficit probably has disinflationary effects.

The unemployment threat is also highlighted. Here the three zones have very different experience: the US has an unemployment under control; in Japan it is concealed (the BIS took the ratio of actual to potential

expect a rough period in the markets somewhere in the near future, but that is conjecture.

There is not quite a warning about present share price levels and the narrowing of the differential on low-quality bonds, but the phenomena are noted with this coda:

pressed by pay and price policies; sometimes it has burst through into very rapid inflation – in some countries hyper-inflation. Sometimes it has simply receded into a background of concern, something in the back of people's minds when they enter into a long-term financial contract, like the purchase of a house or a pension policy.

Now there is something different. Maybe there will be a new sudden surge of inflation, which could run for a while.

But it is hard to see that lasting, given the power of the bond markets to thump up interest rates, and the low-wage economies of East Asia to produce goods similar to our own at much cheaper prices.

But perhaps the something different is a longer period of deflation, something more akin to the 1920s. It is good to have central bankers warning of the dangers of deflation. This is both important and new.

The potential for change in the appetite for risk shouldn't be underestimated'

So what happens now? The BIS has no magic wand. It can warn that policies need to be balanced. It argues that alongside price stability we have to maintain financial stability, noting that the banking system in a number of countries, in particular Japan, remains fragile.

It devotes a considerable part of its conclusion to managing financial crises. Some readers may feel there is a coded signal here that the BIS

expects an abrupt change in this appetite for risk should not be underestimated."

The big point here, surely, is that we are on the cusp between the inflationary era which has dominated the entire post-war period, and something different.

For the entire lives of most people in the developed world there has been a background of financial crises. Some readers may feel there is a coded signal here that the BIS

is a warning that the BIS

sport

Rusedski relieved by victory

Tennis

IAN TASKER
reports from Queen's Club

In the year since, amid fanfares and Union Jack bandanas, he became British, Greg Rusedski has seen his world ranking fall from 35 to 76. Reverting to new-found type some cynics might say. And were it not for the accompanying rise of Tim Henman to the dizzy heights of 61, the big-serving former Canadian might well have found himself under more pressure to perform than he did here yesterday.

Rusedski though was a happy man after his 7-6, 6-3 victory in the first round of the Stella Artois championships over the qualifier Laurence Tuleman. Happy, because after two previous first-round defeats at Queen's – particularly last year to Mark Petchey – he had come through a winner.

Happier still that he was back on grass, the surface best suited to his 137mph serve – the fastest on the ATP Tour.

Queen's Club – despite the presence of Thomas Muster grooving his heavily top-spun ground shots from the baseline on the practice court – is a venue for the speed merchants. Rallies are short, occasionally sweet and it is perhaps no coincidence that the Lawn Tennis Association, whose offices overlook the centre court here, are about to change the title of their monthly publication from Serve and Volley (a three-shot rally) to Ace.

In a game of few deuces, fewer volleys and little excitement, Rusedski fired down 13 of his trademark one-shot wonders.

Stefan Edberg, for so long No

Injuries thwart Larder

Rugby League

A glut of weekend injuries has forced the England coach, Phil Lander, to delay the selection of the side to face France at Gateshead tomorrow night.

England's new captain, Andy Farrell, heads the list of doubtful starters after limping out of Wigan's draw with the London Broncos, suffering from a thigh injury. He hopes to be fit, along with his team-mates Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly, who injured an ankle and a knee respectively in the same match. Should Farrell not make it, Shaun Edwards will take over as captain less than a month after being left out of the squad.

Daryl Powell, earmarked for the stand-off role, suffered a dead-leg in Keighley's win at Widnes, but he, too, hopes to play. Rather less optimistic are Hullifax's highly experienced Test prop Karl Harrison and Wigan's forward Mick Cassidy.

Jordan takes Chicago Bulls to the brink

Basketball

Michael Jordan scored 36 points as the Chicago Bulls demolished the Seattle SuperSonics 108-80 on their home turf to move within one victory of a sweep of the NBA Finals and the best season in league history.

"That was a spectacular game for our team," Phil Jackson, the Chicago coach, said afterwards. "Obviously Michael carried us the first half and we got a great contribution from

everybody in the second half."

Jordan scored 12 first-quarter points, four fewer than all the Sonics, and 27 in the first half, 11 fewer than the entire Seattle team. He shot 11-for-23 from the field, 3-of-4 from long range, and was 11-for-11 from the foul line.

The Australian Luc Longley added 19 points, a career top-off, as the Bulls won 30 up in the best-of-seven finals. No team has ever recovered from a 3-0 deficit to win the

Bowring rings changes after defeat in Brisbane

Rugby Union

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, has urged his squad to go out and challenge for Test places. The team for tomorrow's match against Australia B in Ballymore contains just four of the line-up from Saturday's first Test, when the Welsh lost 56-18.

Playing again are the full-back Wayne Proctor, centres Nigel Davies and Gareth Thomas and lock Derwyn Jones.

Wales have just three internationals before the second international in Sydney on 22 June and Bowring said: "The players have been told they are fighting for places in the Test side."

Wales have injury worries over captain Jonathan Humphreys (hand), centre Leigh Davies (shoulder), scrum-half Robert Howley (back) and prop

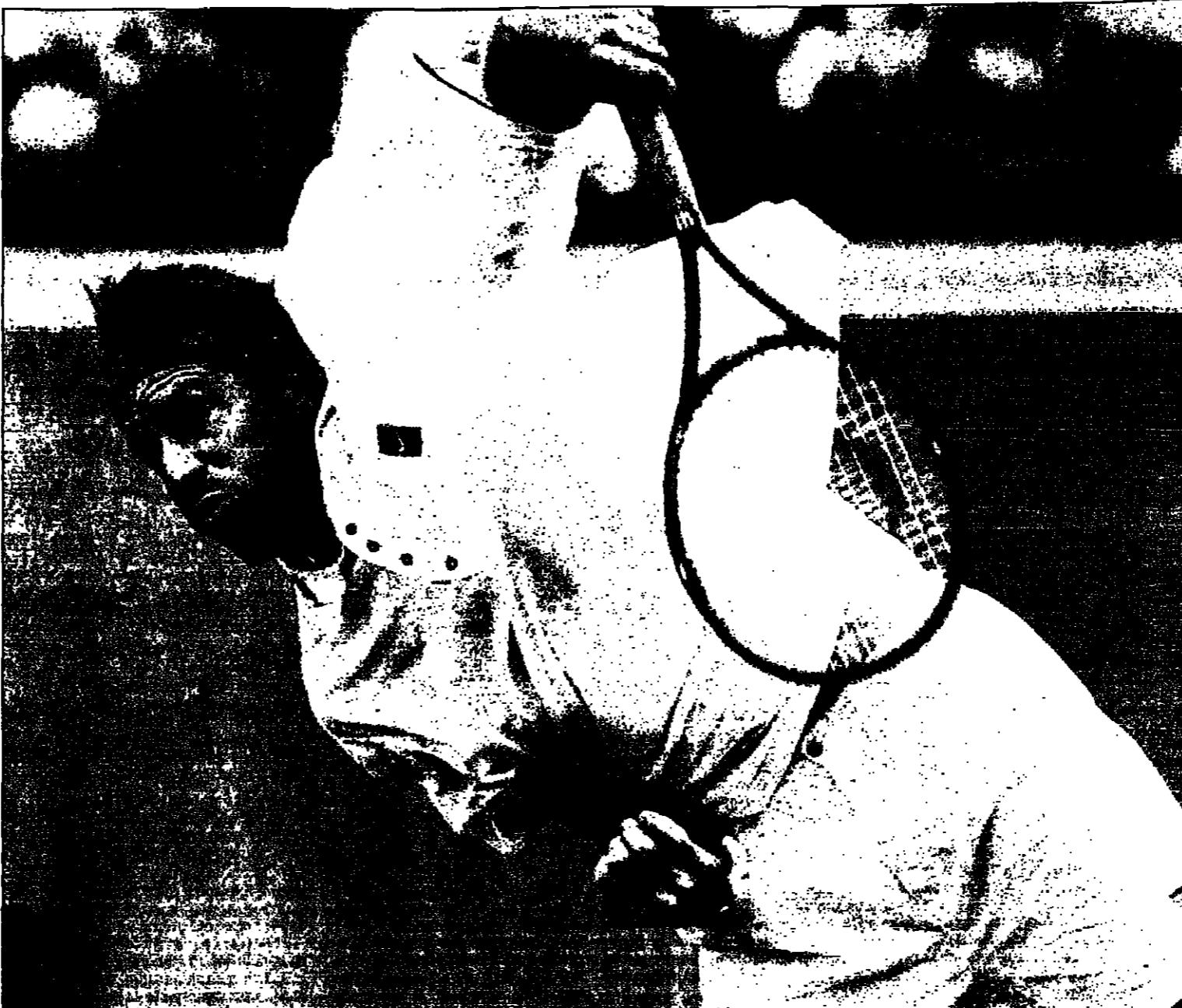
Mike Tindall (knee). The major concerns are over Jonathan and Leigh, although both should be fit by next week," Bowring said.

Davies, the Llanelli centre, captains a Welsh side for the first time with his midfield partner Thomas now the only ever-present in the squad and playing his fifth straight game of the trip.

Wales spent a lot of time in yesterday's training session trying to shore up a defence that has leaked 21 tries – including 10 against Australia Capital Territory and seven against the Wallabies – in just four games.

Wales' first-class cricket

team, captained by Kevin Bowring, has now gone without a win this season. Yesterday it took Sussex only four minutes and seven bells to beat them by an innings and 57 runs at Hove.



More aces at Queen's: Greg Rusedski gets his serve going again during his first-round win at Queen's Club yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Miller upsets the rankings at Edgbaston

Tennis

The British teenager Megan Miller scored one of the best wins of her short career when she beat the American Laxmi Purush in the first round of the DFS Women's Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham yesterday.

Miller, a qualifier who grew up in Florida but holds a British passport through her father John, won 6-4, 6-3 in a match lasting 102 minutes.

Indian-born Purush is not well known in Britain but she has beaten Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the runner-up in the French Open on Saturday and also reached the quarter-finals of two WTA Tour events last

year. At 133 she is 199 places above 18-year-old Miller in the world rankings.

Britain's three other representatives in the main draw – Clare Wood, the British No 1 from Brighton, Sam Smith of Essex and Exeter qualifier Karen Cross – all play their first-round matches today.

1 in the grown-up world, and playing for the first time at Queen's, quelled a spirited challenge from another Briton, Danny Sapsford, winning 6-4, 6-3. "I always enjoy playing on grass," said the London-based Swede, who reached the quarter-finals of the French Open last week. "I feel I'm hitting the ball pretty well but it takes two or three matches before you feel comfortable on the grass."

Another veteran taking his bow at Queen's, Jeremy Bates, the long-time British No 1 disappointingly lost 6-1, 6-2 to Jared Palmer of the United States in just 52 minutes.

Bates, who won the Wirral event on Sunday, managed only 40 minutes practice before the match and was disappointed not to have been scheduled for today. "I just blinked and I'm out," he said.

The British teenager Megan Miller scored one of the best wins of her short career when she beat the American Laxmi Purush in the first round of the DFS Women's Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club in Birmingham yesterday.

Miller, a qualifier who grew up in Florida but holds a British

passport through her father John, won 6-4, 6-3 in a match lasting 102 minutes.

Indian-born Purush is not well known in Britain but she has beaten Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the runner-up in the French Open on Saturday and also reached the quarter-finals of two WTA Tour events last

Redgrave ready to take on the world

Rowing

Steve Redgrave is now officially ready to capture a historic fourth consecutive gold medal in Atlanta next month. Redgrave and partner Matthew Pinsent will spearhead a 44-strong British Olympic team that was named yesterday.

The 34-year-old will be bidding to become only the fourth person in Olympic history to win gold at four successive games.

"Our aim for the last four years has been Olympic gold. With six weeks to go, there's no reason why it should change now," said Redgrave, who has already announced he will hang up his oars after Atlanta.

The duo, who will defend

their coxless pairs title, pulled

out of the pre-Olympic regatta

in Switzerland last weekend as they had both been struck by minor illnesses in recent weeks.

It is certainly not going to be what we expected. There are obviously difficulties in trying to prepare a team for a midweek

Regatta ready to take on the world

Realistic Lewis has eye on McCall fight

Boxing

When the political dust settles on the World Boxing Council heavyweight scene, Lennox Lewis will brush himself down and probably emerge with a revenge fight against Oliver McCall for the vacant title.

The Scarfe brothers, Greg and Jonny, who won Britain's other gold medal in Barcelona in the coxed pairs, will be joined by Tim Foster and Rupert Oberto to compete in the coxless four in Atlanta.

"The overall strength is higher than for Barcelona," Brian Armstrong, the international manager, said. "Of the 10 crews going, at least half have got a very good chance of being on the starting line for the big finals. If we can match the two golds we won in Barcelona and get a couple of minor medals that would be a great achievement."

Things are going very well

at the moment, although we re

alise it is going to be very tough in Atlanta," Redgrave said.

"You are talking about eight or nine boats that have a chance of getting to the final, and when you get a field like that, you know how difficult it's going to be."

The Scarfe brothers, Greg and Jonny, who won Britain's other gold medal in Barcelona in the coxed pairs, will be joined by Tim Foster and Rupert Oberto to compete in the coxless four in Atlanta.

Lewis' promoter, Paavo Ellades, says they will give Mike Tyson "one more chance" to hold on to his WBC belt and not give it up – or be stripped.

There was more talk about a long-awaited fight against Lewis' former Olympic rival Riddick Bowe, although negotiations have recently broken down.

But at an East London restaur

ant yesterday, Lewis seemed to be thinking along the lines of "Keep it simple and give me a

purse offers for a Lewis-Mc

Call fight are due to be opened

on 15 July, two days after Ty

son's fight against Bruce Seldon for the WBA crown. Lewis' camp are confident of winning the bid to stage the fight in London in September, two years after McCall stopped Lewis at the Wembley Arena to take the title back to America.

After Seldon, Tyson is lined up to meet the former undisputed champion Evander Holyfield in October, thus bypassing Lewis. There appears only one road open to Lewis – and he realises it. "I'd rather fight Mike Tyson, but he just does not want me right now," Lewis said.

"But I don't believe he's scared to meet me; it's just the situation. The route we are going is to McCall. What other route do I have? The McCall fight has to sorted out; people will want to see it. There is still some unfinished business between us. I'd like to set the record straight, but the important thing is getting the title back."

All four members of the dressage team, also announced yesterday, are new to the Olympics. Jane Bredin, Richard Davison, Joanne Jackson and Vicki Thompson will have proved that they can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

All four members of the dressage team, also announced yesterday, are new to the Olympics. Jane Bredin, Richard Davison, Joanne Jackson and Vicki Thompson will have proved that they can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

After Seldon, Tyson is lined up to meet the former undisputed champion Evander Holyfield in October, thus bypassing Lewis. There appears only one road open to Lewis – and he realises it. "I'd rather fight Mike Tyson, but he just does not want me right now," Lewis said.

"But I don't believe he's scared to meet me; it's just the situation. The route we are going is to McCall. What other route do I have? The McCall fight has to sorted out; people will want to see it. There is still some unfinished business between us. I'd like to set the record straight, but the important thing is getting the title back."

All four members of the dressage team, also announced yesterday, are new to the Olympics. Jane Bredin, Richard Davison, Joanne Jackson and Vicki Thompson will have proved that they can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best

placed of the British riders at Badminton on New Flavour, and William Fox-Pitt, who was in the victorious European Open team with Cosmopolitan II, will be going to their first Olympics. Both are talented riders, who have proved that they

can keep a cool head under pressure.

Leslie Law, fourth and best</p

US OPEN: In 1951 the redesigned Oakland Hills frightened a generation. James Cusick predicts more nightmares this week

Golf's élite face devil of a course

Bertrand Russell, bright but without a decent golf handicap, thought the infliction of cruelty with a good conscience was a delight to moralists, and that was why they invented hell. The United States Golf Association in 1951 must have thought the eternal inferno was a soft option. Instead, they created Oakland Hills.

They had their reasons. At the 1937 US Open in Oakland Hills, Birmingham, in Michigan, Ralph Guldahl hit a record 281 total on the course originally designed by Donald Ross. Ross, born in Dornoch, Scotland, laid out Oakland in 1918. Back then, when pros found a ball that flew straight they prayed constantly to the Almighty or made Faustian pacts to be allowed never to lose it. The hickory shafts of their clubs also meant tweed-jacketed players

like George Duncan simply went up and "hit the bloody thing", not like today when they elegantly "leadbetter" it using super-T-zoidal-titanium, PDC-quantumised-carbon-fibre-modular weapons. No. The 7,037 yards of Ross' Oakland Hills, where the US Open returns this week, was once as severe a test as you would expect from one of the greatest course designers in history. Oak Hill, Inverness and St. Louis are all Ross designs, and have stayed memorable US Opens. But by 1951 the USGA decided that to be cruel they had to be damn cruel. They had spent years worrying over obsessed manufacturers who, with a zeal NASA rocket scientists would have envied, increased the distance and accuracy of golf balls. Their velocity limit imposed in the early 1930s to preserve, as

they believed, the "character" of the game, was not working.

New steel shafts also meant the professionals regularly drove past the old fairway traps which had once traumatised the likes of Ted Ray, Gene Sarazen, Tommy Armour and maybe even Bobby Jones (although I very much doubt it). If they could shoot 281 in 1937, what might happen in 1951?

To carry out the satanic



Ben Hogan clears the rough during his greatest round, the last of the 1951 US Open at Oakland Hills

Photograph: Corbis-Bettmann/UPI

Els warns Montgomerie

The worst news for Colin Montgomerie so near to the US Open came from the Buick Classic in Westchester, New York, on Sunday where the South African Ernie Els lifted his third American tour title by eight strokes.

Els, 26, beat Montgomerie in a play-off for the US Open two years ago, and to have him back in top form as the world's best players gather at Oakland Hills, Michigan, makes the Scot's search for a first major victory all that much more difficult.

Els, who also beat Montgomerie in the final of the 1994 World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, shot rounds of 65, 66, 69 and 71 in the Buick. Greg Norman finished 12 strokes back in 16th place, and the Masters champion, Nick Faldo, was four shots further adrift. Els' 271 total was the same as he returned on the same course in the week before his US Open win two years ago.

Buick Classic final scores,

US Open tee-off times,
Sporting Digest, page 20

Montgomerie, who had won the 1994 World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, shot rounds of 65, 66, 69 and 71 in the Buick. Greg Norman finished 12 strokes back in 16th place, and the Masters champion, Nick Faldo, was four shots further adrift. Els' 271 total was the same as he returned on the same course in the week before his US Open win two years ago.

Buick Classic final scores,

US Open tee-off times,
Sporting Digest, page 20

The official chronicler of the life of St Ben of Texas, the

sportswriter Dan Jenkins, was there. "Everything you may have heard or read about Oakland Hills in '51 was true. Fairways no wider than a hotel hallway, rough almost up to the knees, deep bunkers everywhere the players stepped, and greens slicker than the top of Sam Snead's head."

The new defences of General Trent Jones held. Only two

players shot par over the first 36

sportswriter Dan Jenkins, was there. "Everything you may have heard or read about Oakland Hills in '51 was true. Fairways no wider than a hotel hallway, rough almost up to the knees, deep bunkers everywhere the players stepped, and greens slicker than the top of Sam Snead's head."

The new defences of General

the Open, right? Case closed," says Jenkins. Hogan's official comment is listed in the history books as, "I finally brought the monster to its knees."

When play starts this week, no

one will be calling Oakland Hills

a monster. In 1951 the course frightened enough people for a generation. Only one hole, the par four 11th, still has the original Donald Ross bunkers, but

the spirit of Donald's son will be there. The impending horror for today's pros is that, with even more advances in equipment, the whispers are out demanding another visit from Mephistopheles. How will they be saved from another monster? Maybe they should take the advice of Lee Trevino: "Golf has nothing to do with the arrow, and everything to do with the Indian."

SALISBURY

2.00 Green Label
4.00 SALEEMAH (nap)
2.50 White Sea (nb)
3.00 Purple Fling
3.50 Old Irish

HYPERNON

GONG: Good (Good to Firm in long).

STAFF: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-669, 670-671, 672-673, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-679, 680-681, 682-683, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-689, 690-691, 692-693, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-699, 700-701, 701-702, 702-703, 703-704, 704-705, 705-706, 706-707, 707-708, 708-709, 709-710, 710-711, 711-712, 712-713, 713-714, 714-715, 715-716, 716-717, 717-718, 718-719, 719-720, 720-721, 721-722, 722-723, 723-724, 724-725, 725-726, 726-727, 727-728, 728-729, 729-730, 730-731, 731-732, 732-733, 733-734, 734-735, 735-736, 736-737, 737-738, 738-739, 739-740, 740-741, 741-742, 742-743, 743-744, 744-745, 745-746, 746-747, 747-748, 748-749, 749-750, 750-751, 751-752, 752-753, 753-754, 754-755, 755-756, 756-757, 757-758, 758-759, 759-760, 760-761, 761-762, 762-763, 763-764, 764-765, 765-766, 766-767, 767-768, 768-769, 769-770, 770-771, 771-772, 772-773, 773-774, 774-775, 775-776, 776-777, 777-778, 778-779, 779-780, 780-781, 781-782, 782-783, 783-784, 784-785, 785-786, 786-787, 787-788, 788-789, 789-790, 790-791, 791-792, 792-793, 793-794, 794-795, 795-796, 796-797, 797-798, 798-799, 799-800, 800-801, 801-802, 802-803, 803-804, 804-805, 805-806, 806-807, 807-808, 808-809, 809-810, 810-811, 811-812, 812-813, 813-814, 814-815, 815-816, 816-817, 817-818, 818-819, 819-820, 820-821, 821-822, 822-823, 823-824, 824-825, 825-826, 826-827, 827-828, 828-829, 829-830, 830-831, 831-832, 832-833, 833-834, 834-835, 835-836, 836-837, 837-838, 838-839, 839-840, 840-841, 841-842, 842-843, 843-844, 844-845, 845-846, 846-847, 847-848, 848-849, 849-850, 850-851, 851-852, 852-853, 853-854, 854-855, 855-856, 856-857, 857-858, 858-859, 859-860, 860-861, 861-862, 862-863, 863-864, 864-865, 865-866, 866-867, 867-868, 868-869, 869-870, 870-871, 871-872, 872-873, 873-874, 874-875, 875-876, 876-877, 877-878, 878-879, 879-880, 880-881, 881-882, 882-883, 883-884, 884-885, 885-886, 886-887, 887-888, 888-889, 889-890, 890-891, 891-892, 892-893, 893-894, 894-895, 895-896, 896-897, 897-898, 898-899, 899-900, 900-901, 901-902, 902-903, 903-904, 904-905, 905-906, 906-907, 907-908, 908-909, 909-910, 910-911, 911-912, 912-913, 913-914, 914-915, 915-916, 916-917, 917-918, 918-919, 919

Sport

EURO '96

The comparative ease with which Germany overcame the Czechs was further proof of their superiority in development

As a consequence of the abuse he has sometimes suffered in popular German newspapers, Bert Vogts's relations with reporters have been subject to frequent emotional disturbance. No, Vogts said calmly on the eve of Euro '96, no, he does not find the burden of history troublesome.

Vogts's most persistent critics interpret this as a challenge. They press Germany's national coach to admit the pressure of emulation, supposing that if he can just about get through the days the nights must make him nervous.

It is just Germany's remarkable record of victory in four World Cups and three European Championships but that all Vogts's predecessors, Sepp Herberger, Helmut Schön, Jupp Derwall and Franz

Beckenbauer, were winners. "Bertie keeps on insisting that it won't be a big disappointment personally if his name isn't added to that list, but I don't believe him for one moment," a veteran German football correspondent, Hartmut Scherzner, said before Germany played the Czech Republic at Old Trafford on Sunday.

German football has no patience with illusions. In reaching the final of the 1992 European Championship and the World Cup quarter-finals two years ago, Vogts has proved a capable successor to the charismatic Beckenbauer but much more is required of him in the present campaign. "I'm sure that most countries would celebrate getting to the final of a big football tournament, but Germany have taken part in so many that if we lose, the coach is no

longer safe," Scherzner added. "For example, Derwall won the European Championship in 1980, but didn't survive a loss to Italy in the World Cup final two years later."

Upholding the coach's right to ignore speculative intrusions, Vogts is discreetly vague about his team's prospects. "I was pleased with a lot of our play but there is room for improvement," he said shortly after Sunday's match.

Probably the football experience that brought Vogts most pleasure was playing at right-back when West Germany defeated the Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup final. Today's crop of players may not be able to match that team for individual excellence but they could turn out to be an excitingly modern combination. Dangerous conclusions are all too

apart from Thomas Hässler standing much short of six feet.

Typically, you may think, there were some dissenting British voices, including that of the former Manchester United and Scotland defender Martin Buchan, who expected more from the Germans technically. "They look very fit and strong, but frankly I was a bit disappointed," he said. "Of course, with Jürgen Klinsmann back from suspension they are bound to be a better team but I didn't see a lot that would frighten me if I was coming up against them."

What you cannot get away from is that despite Klinsmann's popularity when turning out for Tottenham Hotspur, the successes Germany have achieved are resented in this country, especially I think since

they reached the 1990 World Cup final by defeating England in a penalty shoot-out.

"I don't know anything about that," Vogts said. "I think this is a good team, a good squad and the players are well prepared, better than for the last World Cup when we had a problem with the conditions. To get so many yellow cards was a disappointment because we should have learned quickly from the referee's attitude."

A fanciful theory is that the Germans have given up on individual brilliance: no great stars, a sound method, powerful running with the ball, and collective authority. These are no bad things anyway, but in Hässler, the sweeper, Matthias Sammer, and Andreas Möller they have men who could elevate Vogts to the status of his predecessors.

England's Dunkirk inspiration

A leading stress expert yesterday predicted that England would win the European Championship — despite reports that Terry Venables' squad are both mentally and physically exhausted.

"I will certainly be putting some money on them now," says Gary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umsit), said. "I think the Dunkirk spirit will take over and the team will take off."

England, and Paul Gascoigne in particular, came under fire for the way Switzerland were allowed to get back into their opening Euro '96 Group A game on Saturday and secure a point in a 1-1 draw. Professor Cooper, a Manchester City supporter, said: "The expectations are lower as England have drifted out on the betting. But they can work this to their advantage and I am sure Terry Venables knows this. He is a good people manager and I wouldn't be surprised if he told his players to just go out and enjoy themselves.

"That's what I would do. That way you have a better chance of winning and I am convinced England will go on and prosper. I can't believe the pressure we have put on the team. It is astronomical and we have really built it up too much."

"People expect a lot of our sportsmen. This country has declined as a military and economic power: the empire is crumbling. Yet we expect success. It is part of our tradition, even though we are no longer a major force in the world."

"So we look for success in other fields, such as sport, and football in particular. When we don't get what we demand there is an outcry," Cooper added. "It's unfair to heap all the blame on the players and say they should be able to perform well because they earn huge salaries. I heard someone say they should all burn their wage packets at the end of the pitch. That's nonsense."

"It is wrong to blame the players for the salaries they earn. That is determined by the marketplace and how much players in other countries, like

Italy and Holland, get paid. We have a lot of good players in this country but we love to criticise and put people down. We should leave Gascoigne alone and just appreciate the talents of one of the best players this country has produced."

Gary Neville, arguably England's best player against Switzerland, agrees that the puncturing of the balloon of expectation could work in the team's favour. "Of course we all wanted to win, all wanted to put on a really good performance, but it might not be such a bad thing," said Neville, who rejoined his squad-mates yesterday after a 48-hour break from the demands of the competition. "Some people are saying that it will put more pressure on us before the Scotland game, but on the contrary I think it might work the other way."

"I honestly think that it will take some of the pressure off us. We still have to win but, because we didn't play too well on Saturday, the level of expectation from the fans and the press might not be too great now."

The Manchester United youngster argued that the Swiss game had also been an invaluable experience for a team containing seven players having their first experience of tournament football. "It was the first time I've played in a tournament, the first match of the Championship as well, and it was really difficult for us," he said. "One of the first things we said to each other in the dressing room on Saturday was that we simply didn't come out in the second half against Switzerland. We weren't at the races."

"I don't think any of us would really argue with that. We certainly couldn't blame the heat, because it was probably the coolest day of the week, and we were quite happy in that respect. We just didn't play as we can, or as we wanted to," he added, while agreeing that the demands on the England players had mounted in the last few days before a game they had been expected to win quite comfortably.

"It was different to anything else I've done," he said. "The build-up was different to anything I've been involved with before."



Target practice: Gianfranco Zola, Italy's attacking linchpin, hones his free-kick routines yesterday

Photograph: Neal Simpson/Empics

Zola aiming for the perfect 10

When it comes to inheriting hand-me-downs, the No 10 shirt can sometimes be more trouble than it is worth, particularly if it once belonged to Roberto Baggio. There can be no question that it will hang heavily with expectation upon the diminutive figure of Gianfranco Zola during Euro '96, but when you have been personally handed Diego Maradona's responsibility perhaps does not seem quite so intimidating. Today, against Russia at Anfield, he will need to justify the faith shown in him.

It has taken Zola a long time to step out of the shadow of Sacchi. "It's great," he said, "but I had to contend with the Brazilian Careca as well as the formidable Argentinian, and it was not until he moved to Parma three seasons ago and was switched from mid-field to attack that he really came into his own. Now, aged 29, he has been handed the ultimate accolade: selection ahead of Baggio in the national team as partner to Fabrizio Ravanelli. It has not been one of Arrigo Sacchi's more popular decisions but then few have been. To Sacchi's detractors, Zola epitomises the work ethic which the coach holds so dear at the expense, they believe, of flair.

But that is to do Zola, a player of sharp skills and flawless technique, a disservice, even if to hear him talking it could be the coach himself. Zola, who was included in Sacchi's first selection in November 1991, denies that the accent on "team players" within the squad has been to the detriment of the skill factor, and as a consequence the absence of individualists such as Gianluca Vialli and Beppe Signori. "The Italian squad has many good players," he said. "We work a lot and when a group works a lot they get results. We are prepared to work for that success and if we do not win this tournament I promise you we will play well."

Such conviction is all the more impressive coming from one as

modest as Zola, a humorous, affable little man too. Asked if he might follow some of his fellow Serie A performers to England when his contract with Parma expires in 1998, he replied: "Yes, I believe I can play here. As you can see I am well built for your high-ball game. I remember in Copenaghen two years ago in the Cup-Winners' Cup final I always seemed to be winning the aerial battles with Tony Adams."

His insistence on doing the interview in English, albeit shaky, without recourse to the attendant translator spoke volumes too for his single-mindedness. It may explain why he may eventually have developed such a fine, if not exactly intuitive, understanding with Faustino Asprilla at Parma. Good enough, anyway, to reduce him to tears when the Colombian decided to pack his bags and head for Newcastle last season.

"Initially, we had a bit of a problem because 'Tino' kept changing wings but it did not stop us scoring 29 goals together in our first season, and we were among the leading pairs the next season too. Early on neither of us seemed to know what the other was doing but the good thing was that neither did the opposition. Newcastle should be patient. I think next season you will see a different player."

Zola's powers of compatibility, however, were tested to the limit last season when he was paired with Hristo Stoichkov, presumably his reward for getting on so well with Asprilla. "At Barcelona Stoichkov played in a certain mode and at Parma he has found it difficult to change," Zola said. "In Italy the football is hard work for

the forwards." Enough said. Despite the financial success of the Premiership, England will continue to struggle, he believes, to hire Europe's youngs and finest to these shores while Italy still offer the chance to "learn as well as earn".

He himself welcomed the opportunity of a fresh experience abroad ("perhaps England") but only when his contract ends at the age of 31.

For the time being his thoughts are solely on Euro 96, which he regards as pay-back time. His appearance "after four years hard work" at the last World Cup lasted just 12 minutes when he became victim of one of that tournament's more absurd refereeing decisions, sent off in the second round match against Nigeria for an innocuous challenge.

Roberto Baggio came to the rescue of the 10 men that day with a memorable match-winning brace. Now it is up to Zola to aim for the perfect 10.

no Asprilla at Parma. Good enough, anyway, to reduce him to tears when the Colombian decided to pack his bags and head for Newcastle last season.

"Initially, we had a bit of a problem because 'Tino' kept changing wings but it did not stop us scoring 29 goals together in our first season, and we were among the leading pairs the next season too. Early on neither of us seemed to know what the other was doing but the good thing was that neither did the opposition. Newcastle should be patient. I think next season you will see a different player."

Zola's powers of compatibility, however, were tested to the limit last season when he was paired with Hristo Stoichkov, presumably his reward for getting on so well with Asprilla. "At Barcelona Stoichkov played in a certain mode and at Parma he has found it difficult to change," Zola said. "In Italy the football is hard work for

the forwards." Enough said. Despite the financial success of the Premiership, England will continue to struggle, he believes, to hire Europe's youngs and finest to these shores while Italy still offer the chance to "learn as well as earn".

He himself welcomed the opportunity of a fresh experience abroad ("perhaps England") but only when his contract ends at the age of 31.

For the time being his thoughts are solely on Euro 96, which he regards as pay-back time. His appearance "after four years hard work" at the last World Cup lasted just 12 minutes when he became victim of one of that tournament's more absurd refereeing decisions, sent off in the second round match against Nigeria for an innocuous challenge.

Roberto Baggio came to the rescue of the 10 men that day with a memorable match-winning brace. Now it is up to Zola to aim for the perfect 10.

Kirton makes defence of ticket sales

Glen Kirton, the tournament director of Euro '96, yesterday rebuffed suggestions that stay-away supporters are threatening the success of the Championship.

Old Trafford was well short of its 55,300 capacity on Sunday, with a crowd of 37,300 watching Germany's 2-0 win over the Czech Republic. Just 24,000 fans saw the 1-1 draw between Spain and Bulgaria at Elland Road — a stadium which has a capacity of 39,000.

Kirton still insists that ticket sales have easily outstripped

original predictions and that Sunday's attendances in Manchester and Leeds were not unexpected. "We have sold more than 90 per cent of the 1.4m tickets available for the tournament as a whole — 20 per cent more than our original sales projection," he said. "Nine games are sold out and a further four are near sell-outs. We expect that the limited number of tickets still remaining will be snapped up quickly as the tournament progresses and public interest builds.

"We are delighted that the opening match was a sell-out and that the Denmark v Portugal game at Hillsborough attracted nearly 35,000," Kirton added. "Lower attendances for the other two matches played yesterday reflect the fact that neither the Czech Republic or Bulgaria took up their original ticket allocation of 7,000 per group match."

At Old Trafford, a Euro 96 spokesman said: "We suspect

ages, maybe for a run in the tournament. This being the first and weakest game, people wasted their tickets." Just 130,000 tickets are still available for the rest of the tournament.

"A punter stands to win £1 if Italy and Spain make it to the final. The biggest single bet so far taken by Ladbrokes was placed by a customer in London, who bet £50,000 at 20-1.

■ ITV's audience for England's opening game against Switzerland on Saturday was 10 million.

Consequently much responsibility will fall on Real Oviedo's Victor Onopko, who can play either in midfield or defence, and Everton's Andrei Kanchelski, who is a potential match-winner on the right wing. Certainly, the Russian strength is up front rather than at the back.

■ Italy's Paruzzi (Juventus); Mucci (Parma), Apolloni (Parma), Costacurta (Milan), Di Matteo (Lazio), Di Stefano (Parma), Del Piero (Juventus), Zola (Parma), Caviglia (Lazio).

Russia: To be announced.

A brilliant start for Scotland.

Will they go all the way?

Get where you're going with the AA. Join now from only £39.

To join, call free now on 0800 444 999. Ask for Extension 6108. Immediate cover available.

£200 off the new member cash payment price of £44, and includes a £5 first year registration fee. It applies only to new members joining with Breakdown Cover and paying annually by direct debit or credit card continuous authority. Membership is subject to the Rules of the AA and full details of services, benefits and restrictions can be found in the current AA Handbook (available for inspection at any AA Shop).



هذا من الأصل

